



**Ministry of Food, Agriculture
and Fisheries of Denmark**

Danish Veterinary and
Food Administration

Position paper on a new EU legislative frame for animal welfare

EU Platform on Animal Welfare

10 November 2021

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Position paper on a new EU legislative frame for animal welfare a little about the background

The Farm to Fork Strategy and its initiative to revise EU's animal welfare legislation was seen as a window of opportunity to give our input to a new legislative framework

To this end the position paper was drawn up

The position paper

- ❖ Strongly supports the Commissions initiative to revise the EU-legislation on animal welfare to align it with the latest scientific evidence, broaden its scope, make it easier to enforce and ultimately ensure a higher level of animal welfare
- ❖ Welcomes the Commissions communication on the European Citizens' Initiative "End the Cage Age"
- ❖ Express a hope that its recommendations will help ensure that the long needed revision is ambitious



Position paper on a new EU legislative frame for animal welfare its recommendations

General recommendations

- ❖ The new legislative frame must
 - ✓ include an update of current legislation also taking into account areas, where practical experience has identified enforcement problems due to too general or imprecise provisions
 - ✓ set new specific legislation for animals that are kept or traded in the context of economic activity, and where there is currently only a general legislation or no legislation - not only farm animals but also companion animals, such as dogs and cats
 - ✓ take animal-based indicators into account, where possible
 - ✓ allow Member States to maintain or adopt stricter rules for a higher level of animal welfare
 - ✓ where appropriate, set a sufficient transitional period



Position paper on a new EU legislative frame for animal welfare its recommendations

Species specific recommendations

- ❖ In the position paper priority is given to updated or new species specific legislation on the welfare of pigs, laying hens, including breeders, pullets, broilers, including breeders, calves, dairy cows, rabbits and turkeys.
- ❖ Update of the EU-legislation on pig welfare
 - ✓ Tail docking
 - ✓ Castration
 - ✓ Group housing of sows from the time of weaning
 - ✓ Loose housing in the farrowing pen
- ❖ Update of the EU-legislation on laying hen welfare
 - ✓ Phasing out of cage systems for laying hens and pullets
 - ✓ Provisions for laying hen breeders
 - ✓ Provisions on the welfare of pullets
 - ✓ Beak trimming must be phased out



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- ❖ Update of the EU-legislation for broiler welfare
 - ✓ Provisions for broiler breeders
 - ✓ Stricter use provisions for the use of indicators of poor welfare
 - ✓ Enrichment - platforms or access to roughage

- ❖ Update of the EU-legislation on calf welfare
 - ✓ Housing
 - ✓ Feed and water
 - ✓ Mutilations – disbudding, castration

- ❖ New legislation on dairy cow welfare
 - ✓ Housing conditions, e.g. tethering (tie-stalls) as a husbandry system must be phased out
 - ✓ Milking equipment and milking process
 - ✓ Feed and water
 - ✓ Mutilations – ban on tongue modifications, tail docking, hot iron branding



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- ❖ New legislation on the welfare of rabbits kept for meat production
 - ✓ Housing conditions, e.g. conventional cage systems must be phased out
 - ✓ Roughage
 - ✓ Management measures – minimum mating and weaning age
- ❖ New legislation for the welfare of turkeys kept for meat production
 - ✓ Housing conditions, e.g. turkeys shall not be kept in cages
 - ✓ Management measures





Thank you – questions?