



European
Commission

Output of the Commission's subgroups on Transport & Pigs

A. Ramírez Vela
DG SANTE- F2



1. TRANSPORT IN EXTREME TEMPERATURES (DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION)



The problem they were trying to solve

Unavailability of relevant information for specific stakeholders

- Lots of guidance, e.g. animal transport guides.
- interested stakeholders do not know what is expected of them in different scenarios.





European
Commission

Subgroup recommends

An App for Animal welfare during transport

- Detailed concept note prepared by an *ad-hoc* editorial board of different stakeholders' representatives;
- It should be at EU level ;
- It should be free (available to all);
- It should be kept updated.





European
Commission

Miscellaneous point

Subgroup identified research gap (on monitoring thermal stress on animals during transport) to support enforcement and future legislative changes.





2. CATTLE FOR EXPORT



The problem they were trying to solve

Improve animal welfare during road transport

- Communication problems between authorities
- Enforcement
- Implications of the EU Court of Justice
- Good practices



Subgroup recommends

- Transfer of information (CAs)
- Enforcement (CAs)
- Checks at loading (CAs)
- Several for organisers, CAs departure, Civil society
- Good practices (COM, organisers, transporters, different CAs)





3. UNWEANED ANIMALS (CALVES)





European
Commission

The problem they were trying to solve



What does it mean:

1. Prolonged hunger
2. Thermal comfort
3. Health/fitness for transport





Subgroup recommends

- Minimum feeding, max intervals between meals, water
- For avoiding cold stress, heat stress & Animal based indicators to assess these stresses.





European
Commission

Dissenting view (industry)

"didn't make clear the interrelation between 'undue suffering' and the fact that calves need liquid and if necessary should be fed, (..) or that calves should be fed every twelve hours. (..) Too much emphasis on feeding and too little on other factors which influence the quality of transport."





4. MEASURING TAIL DAMAGE AT THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND SETTING COMMON THRESHOLDS





European
Commission



The problem they were trying to solve

- Most member states do not have data on the level of tail docking and tail injuries.

Need a harmonised scoring system

- To make progress in rearing pigs with entire tails

A common recommendation for a threshold of tail biting damage in docked pigs and a threshold for success of rearing (non-docked) pigs





European
Commission

What do we propose:

1. Collect data at slaughterhouse level
2. Have a HARMONISED way to score lesions
3. Benchmark the percentage of pigs with intact tails
4. Give information on tail biting injuries back to pig producers



Health and
Food Safety



European
Commission



What is in the document?

Definitions and scoring

So everybody understands the same (e.g. intact tail) and gives the same score.

Setting a common threshold

How many injuries are needed to have 'evidence'?



Health and
Food Safety



European
Commission

Setting a common threshold for moving towards rearing pigs with intact tails

Need for an informed recommendation

The subgroup suggests:

- a **recommendation** for a common threshold of tail biting damage (in docked pigs).
- a separate threshold to assess the **success of rearing (non-docked) pigs** without tail biting damage.



The two priority areas of the mandate were...

1. Tools and means to improve implementation of EU legislation.

Effective feedback to farmers (benchmarked against common thresholds for docked and non-docked)

2. Policy indicators to measure trends in implementation.

Benchmarking the % of intact tails (not docked, full length and without injuries).





European
Commission

2. COMPLIANCE CRITERIA



The problem they were trying to solve

Absence of compliance criteria to assess legal requirements linked to certain parameters for tail biting risks in Commission Recommendation 2016/336.

- Health,
- Diet and
- Competition.





European
Commission



HEALTH

- A list of “**iceberg**” indicators:
- Guidelines for farmers on the measures they can take





European
Commission



DIET

- Need to determine the link between tail biting and gastro-intestinal damage
- Collate evidence on how to prevent gastro-intestinal damage
- Validate behavioural indicators of gastro-intestinal damage.
- May need further research on: feeding frequency, volume within restricted feeding systems, dietary fibre content and quality, protein digestibility and mycotoxins.





European
Commission

COMPETITION

Further guidance needed on:

- Optimal strategies for providing enrichment material, in relation to competition for this resource.
- Competition for space and resources (for example feeders and drinkers).

Subgroup notes poor quality and/or functionality of space is a challenge.





European
Commission

Questions?

Answers:

- **Adolfo Sansolini** VIER PFOTEN
- **João Vieira** UECEBV
- **Antonio Velarde** Independent expert
- **Linda Keeling** and **Anna Valros**
- **Elena Nalon** Eurogroup for Animals and **Niamh O'Connell**

