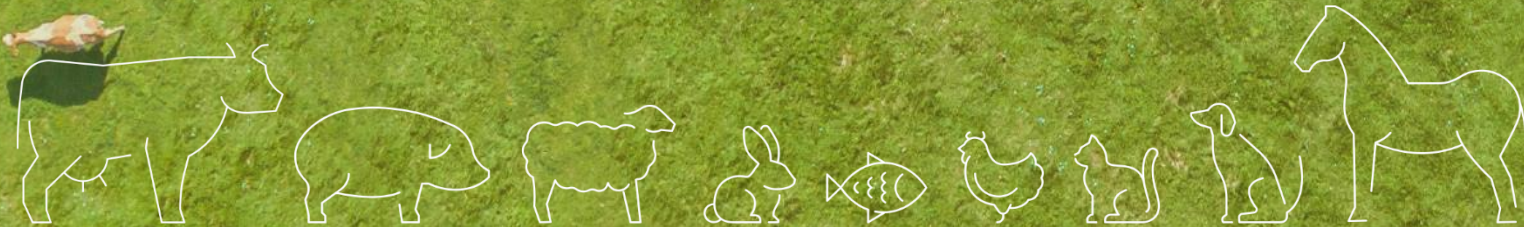


12th meeting of the EU Platform on animal welfare

Horizontal provisions of the revised legislation on
the welfare of kept animals



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Topics

- ✓ **Competence and training of animal handlers**
- ✓ **Animal welfare reference person**
- ✓ **Animal welfare indicators**
- ✓ **Animal health and welfare plans /SOPs /HACCP**
- ✓ **Animal welfare visits by a vet**
- ✓ **Animal welfare requirements at imports**
- ✓ **Species of the « EFSA roadmap »**

Competence and training of animal handlers

1. Main questions

- Updating the list of competence?
- Do we need some level of harmonisation of training required or offered?
- Should there be different requirements depending on the size of the farms ?
- Should any training requirement be restricted to keepers only?
- Should there be regular trainings?
- Do we need certification of competence acquired? For whom? Should there be further harmonisation in this area?
- What role for the EURCs?

2. Main points retained from the poultry, pigs and cattle subgroups' discussions so far:

- Training of animal handlers is a key element for welfare, where we need an upgrade in the revision of the legislation.
- Certification of all animal handlers is not feasible.

Animal welfare reference persons

1. Main questions

- Is the model of the animal welfare officer of the killing Regulation transferable to the farm sector (for farms with several employees)?
- What adaptations of this model would be needed?
- What threshold to differentiate small vs. medium and large farms?
- What competences and responsibility should the animal welfare reference person have?
- What training would be necessary?

2. Main points retained from the poultry, pigs and cattle subgroups' discussions so far:

- An animal welfare officer requirement for all farms would not be feasible.

Indicators

1. Main issues/questions

- Policy indicators vs management indicators
- What level of harmonisation?
- What indicators for different species?
- What indicators would demonstrate the extent of success of our policy objectives?
- What reporting requirements? For whom?
- How to ensure comparability and EU level overview?
- Who monitors the indicators? (farmer? farmer's vet? official vet?)
- Where to monitor (slaughterhouse and/or farm)?

2. Main points retained from the poultry, pigs and cattle subgroups' discussions so far:

- Indicators are a key instrument to improve welfare, which is not sufficiently used in existing legislation.
- We would need a few key indicators species by species

Animal health and welfare plans / SOPs

1. Main questions

- Differences SOPs / AHW plans
- Can AH&W plans help better manage welfare issues (in particular for the « health » domain of animal welfare), especially in medium and large farms?
- What should such a plan contain?
- Should the AW reference person be responsible for it?
- What articulation with possible harmonised key management indicators?

2. Main points retained from the poultry, pigs and cattle subgroups' discussions so far:

- SOPs is a useful instrument but it is not desirable to require the development of SOPs.
- AH&W plans is a different instrument, more suitable for regulatory purposes.
- AH&W plans are more suitable for large farms, where there is more staff.

Animal welfare visit by a vet

1. Main questions

- AHL provides for « animal health visits » from a vet, which may be combined with visits for other purposes.
- Should we require regular advisory animal welfare visits from a vet?
- Should it be for all farms or medium and large farms?
- Should it be the role of the vet to review and discuss the AH&W plan with the farmer?
- Should we regulate the frequency of the visit? If yes, which frequency?

2. Main points retained from the poultry, pigs and cattle subgroups' discussions so far:

- Regular discussions between the farmer and the vet on animal welfare related issues is a key element to help improve welfare.
- Farm vet can showcase good practices from other farms (possibly organising visits among farms).

Animal welfare requirements at imports

1. Main questions

- Should some of the animal welfare requirements of the revised legislation on kept animals be applicable for imported animal products (like it is the case for the killing Regulation today)?
- If so, which of these requirements?
- Where is there a broad ethical demand of European citizens justifying such requirements under Art XX(a) of the GATT?
- Should we rather address the issue through labelling? In such a case, should labelling be mandatory, including for imported products?
- Should we rather address the issue through clauses on welfare legislation in Free Trade Agreements?

=> To be further evaluated in the impact assessment.

Species of the “EFSA roadmap”

1. Issue

- Some animal species are in the scope of Directive 98/58/EC but not covered by a vertical Directive.
- With the exception of dairy cows and the housing of ducks, geese and quail, we will not have a recent EFSA opinion in time for the legislative proposals.
- => generic requirements for these species + empowerments for delegated acts setting detailed requirements at a later stage once the EFSA opinions become available.
- => COM and EFSA provisionally agreed on a roadmap of future mandates (see: [aw_eval_revision_roadmap_efsaf.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)), covering:
 - Beef cattle
 - Turkeys
 - Sheep & goats
 - Farmed aquatic animals
 - Equids
 - Fur animals

2. Question

- Which generic requirements should we cover for these species?



Thank you



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