

**Minutes**  
**Third meeting of the pig subgroup of the EU platform on Animal Welfare**  
**10-11 July 2019, Grange**

This was the third meeting of the pig subgroup of the EU platform on animal welfare. The meeting was not public. The pig subgroup aims to contribute to the objectives of the Platform by providing information, recommendations and proposals for practices which help deliver better pig welfare. The role of the platform is to assist the Commission with the development and exchange of coordinated actions on animal welfare, and this subgroup is working in particular on risks for tail biting and avoiding routine tail docking.

Following the second meeting of the subgroup on 27 March 2019, members of the group continued work on four papers: tail biting risks related to health, competition and aggression, diet, and measuring tail damage at the slaughterhouse. Since the last meeting 10 members contributed to the work led by the five authors (L. Keeling, A. Valros, E. Nalon, E. Baxter and N O' Connell) and co-ordinated by K. Olsson. Feedback on draft documents had therefore improved compared to feedback prior to the last meeting. This time members of the subgroup had also consulted within their organisations in order to provide comments.

The subgroup discussed and edited two papers:

1. Measuring tail damage at the slaughterhouse and setting common thresholds and
2. Indicators for tail biting risks relating to compliance criteria on health, dietary factors and space and competition.

These papers contain recommendations for future action. N. Juul indicated that European Meat Network had a general reservation on the documents presented prior to the meeting, and provided a note on the position of the European Meat Network (attached to these minutes)<sup>1</sup>.

The subgroup agreed not to make any further changes to the two papers and a **deadline of Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September** was agreed to allow, if necessary, further consultation within each member's organisation. Any change in the member's level of agreement/disagreement as expressed at the subgroup should be sent, together with any comments to explain the level of disagreement, to [SANTE-IRL-F2-AW-P-SUB-GROUP@ec.europa.eu](mailto:SANTE-IRL-F2-AW-P-SUB-GROUP@ec.europa.eu).

After Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September the Commission services will send the two recommendations papers, as revised at the meeting, to the animal welfare platform, indicating whether a consensus or a majority opinion was reached. The Platform members will be asked to discuss these papers at the Platform on 7<sup>th</sup> October with the aim of adopting them as reports from the Platform, as indicated in Article 7(6) of the Commission Decision establishing the Platform on Animal Welfare (2017/C 31/12).

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<sup>1</sup> Following the meeting N Juul consulted the members of EMN on the revised documents and agreed to the revised text. These documents of the subgroup are therefore agreed by consensus and will be presented for approval by the Animal Welfare Platform on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

Regarding the development of an automated tail assessment system, which was discussed at the last meeting, N. Juul informed the group that the project run by the Danish Meat Research Institute has closed down due to lack of financial resources. It is understood that the developer of this system could work further on this if another source of funding was available.

**Annexes:**

1. EMN response to Measuring tail damages at the slaughterhouse

**List of Participants**

**European Commission: DG Health and Food Safety:** Terence Cassidy, Vasco Antunes, Lorna Scott.

**Member States:** Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden and the Netherlands.

**Business and Professional Organisations:** Liaison Centre for Meat Processing Industry in the European Union (CLITRAVI), Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations (COPA), European Meat Network (EMN), Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives (COGECA), International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE)

**Civil Society Organisations:** Compassion in World Farming, (CIWF), Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), World Animal Protection (WAP).

**Independent Experts:** Anna Valros, Linda Keeling, Niamh O'Connell

**Invited Experts:** Anne-Claire Berentsen, LAVES Niedersachsen, Johannes Vugts, HK Scan, Elena Nalon, Eurogroup for Animals, Loris Alborali, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia Romagna (*IZSLER*)