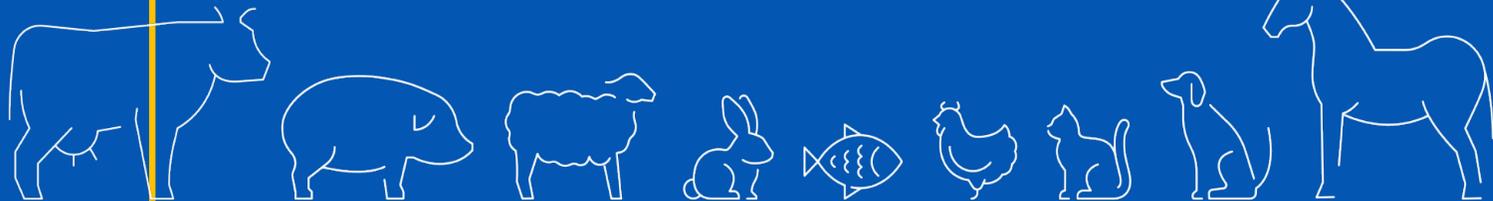


# Inception Impact Assessment

Possible approaches to policy options

*EU Animal Welfare Platform meeting of 10 November 2021*

*Lucie Carrouée, Deputy Head of Unit*



# Inception Impact Assessment

- 4 areas covered: welfare at farm level, during transport, at the time of killing, animal welfare labelling.
- 9 common problems + specific problems
- Policy options envisaged
- Preliminary assessment of expected impact
- Public feedback gathered between 6 July and 24 August 2021

# Feedback on the Inception Impact Assessment

- Almost 983 contributions (many from Poland), of which 783 citizens.
- Policy options generally well received.
- Calls on the Commission to do more e.g. on the killing of one-day old chicks.
- Also some critical voices raised, e.g. against the proposed phasing out of cages and the phasing out of tail-docking and beak trimming.

# Feedback - suggestions for further actions

- Hunting, fishing, wild animals and circus animals.
- Cats and dogs, in addition to rules on transport.
- Ban on ritual slaughter.
- **Ban the killing of male chicks.**
- Ban on force feeding/foie gras.
- Animal testing.
- Fish farming, requirements for their growth and transport.
- Ban on fur farming.
- Ban on bull fighting.
- **Invertebrates, species-specific legislation.**
- The appointment of an animal welfare Commissioner.
- Video surveillance in slaughterhouses.
- End cruel farming practices such as selective breeding / genetic selection.
- Transport of ornamental birds, small pets, reptiles and amphibians.

# Examples of views expressed - general

*“Future legislation should also cover other animals than farm animals, especially dogs and cats, which are kept or traded in the context of an economic activity.”*

*“A sufficient transitional period must be secured for changes in production methods and investments to guarantee the financial viability of recent investments, but also to give farmers time to plan for their future.”*

# Transport

- Space allowances, travel times and travel conditions
- Live animal exports to non-EU countries
- Unweaned and other vulnerable animals
- Better monitoring and enforcement by introducing new technologies
- Cats and dogs
- Means of transports, adapted to new technologies

# Examples of views expressed - transport

*“Journey times must be calculated within an absolute maximum journey time frame of 8 hours for adult livestock (including loading and unloading) and 4 hours for poultry.”*

*“The current situation requiring a navigation system without being able to give exact technical requirements is highly unsatisfactory. A goal-oriented discussion about implementation and use of an international computer system is only possible if exact specifications for navigation systems and transport data storage exist.”*

# Farm level

- Five domains
- Duty-of-care
- A prohibition on cages/stalls
- Requirements for livestock farming systems
- Increased space allowances
- Mutilations
- Imported products of animal origin
- Fur animals
- Animal welfare indicators
- More precise terminology, definitions and requirements
- Competence of animal handlers
- New species-specific animal welfare requirements

# Roadmap of future mandates to EFSA

- 26 October 2021: Commission sent roadmap to EFSA indicating its planned future mandates in the area of animal welfare, after 2023:
  - Beef cattle
  - Sheep and goats
  - Turkeys
  - Farmed salmon and trout; carp; sea bass; sea bream, European eel
  - Ducks, geese and quail
  - Horses
  - Minks, racoon dogs, foxes
  - Certain invertebrates such as decapods

# Examples of views expressed – farm level

*“...disagrees that the digitalization of procedures, and that technology in general, will compensate, or even alleviate, the administrative burden of operators. Beyond the lack of broadband coverage in rural areas and structural computer illiteracy in the general population, technology has never proven to simplify procedures for farmers, nor has it demonstrated significant benefit for animals.”*

*“It would be beneficial to introduce a compulsory Certificate of Competence also for the staff working with farmed animals. This would lead to an improvement of competencies, better implementation of legislation, and greater welfare of animals.”*

# Slaughter

- Water bath stunning
- CO<sup>2</sup> Stunning
- Electric prods
- Farmed fish
- Equipment
- Approval of slaughterhouses
- Simplification

# Examples of views expressed - slaughter

*“It would be useful to introduce an expiring date to the certificates of competence as scientific knowledge is progressively increasing in this field and the knowledge of the personnel working in the slaughterhouses should be updated.”*

*“...it should be taken into consideration that restraining systems are often handcrafted and custom-tailored in small-medium slaughterhouses. For these types of restraining system there should be a simplified process of approval that should nevertheless ensure their fitness for use.”*

# Animal welfare labelling

- Option 0: Status quo
- Option 1: Regulating animal welfare claims
- Option 2: An EU animal welfare label, limited to cage/ non-cage systems
- Option 3: An EU animal welfare label, with key welfare criteria

# Examples of views expressed - labelling

*“...any animal welfare labelling cannot be dissociated from intensive consumers information and communication programs.”*

*“...the proposed labelling requirements for imported products pertaining to animal welfare are unjustifiable and do not follow WTO rules and international standards. We believe that this language is an attempt at making it increasingly more difficult to export U.S. pork and pork products.”*

# Next steps

- Calls for impact assessment studies by external contractors
- Further analysis of the feedback ongoing – more elements of presentation at the stakeholder conference of 9 December 2021
- Impact assessment expected to be concluded early 2023