

12th meeting of the EU Platform on animal welfare

Subgroup on Animal Welfare Labelling
Overview of the work done



Denis SIMONIN, senior expert, Animal Welfare DG SANTE/G3

The subgroup



- 10 members + Commission + guests
 - **1 Independent expert**
 - **2 Civil society organisations**
 - **4 Business and professional organisations**
 - **3 Member States**
- 2 meetings since June

Jarkko Niemi

Eurogroup for animals / Four Paws

COPA / EMN / ERPA / FVE

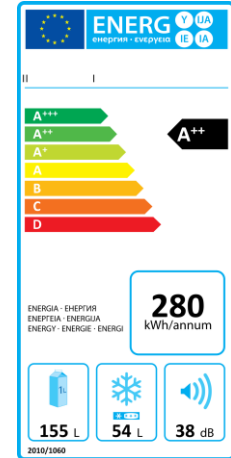
Denmark / Germany / Spain

Previous issues discussed (1)

- ✓ **Problem** definition and baseline
- ✓ Regulating **animal welfare claims**
- ✓ EU label focused **on cages/non cages**
- ✓ EU label with **key animal welfare criteria**

Previous issues discussed (2)

- EU label with key animal welfare criteria
 - **Mandatory** multi-tier (descriptive or evaluative)
 - Voluntary single tier
 - **Voluntary multi-tier**
 - Limited to high standards
 - Covering all products



Haltungsform



haltungform.de

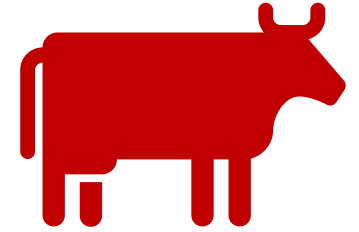


European
Commission

New topics discussed

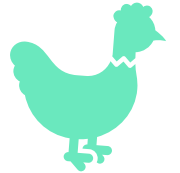
- Key criteria across species
- Governance/Traceability and controls

Key criteria across species (1)

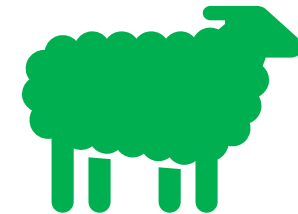
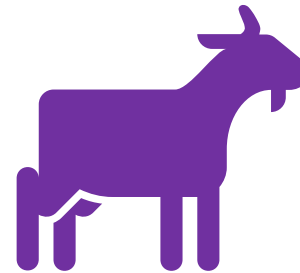


- **Framework legislation** vs specific standards

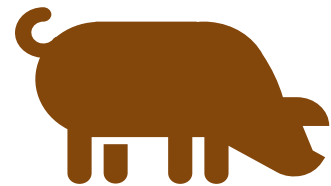
- Level of **consistency** across species



- Two perspectives



- « **Marketing** » approach = added value for operators



- « **Scientific** » approach = accurate information for consumers



Key criteria across species (2)



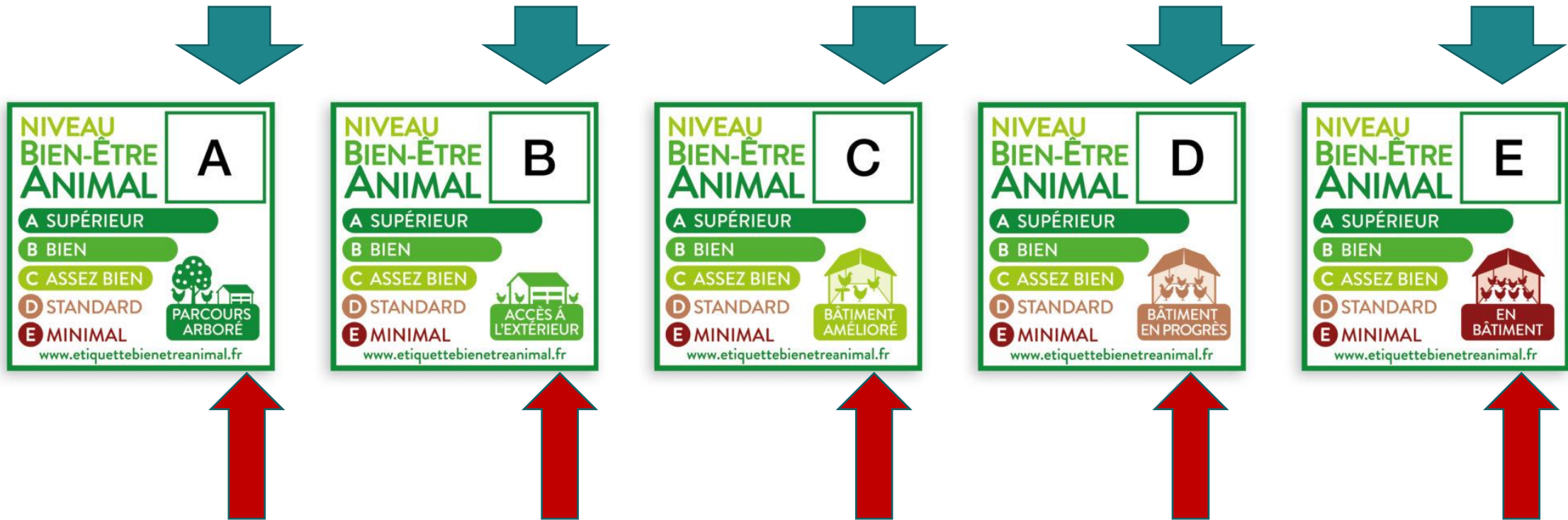
- « **Marketing** » approach
 - Few and simple criteria
 - Descriptive = non-judgmental / easy to communicate
 - Only higher standards



- « **Scientific** » approach
 - Comprehensive range of criteria
 - Evaluative = scoring
 - All products on market (voluntary or mandatory)

Example of a mixed approach

SCORE



DESCRIPTION

Key criteria across species (3)

- Establishing criteria should consider
 - Scientific **robustness** vs **simplicity**
 - Commercial **added value** (+ expected uptake)
 - **Costs** related to implement and control them
 - Dynamic system



Governance, traceability and controls (1)

Adopting specific standards

1. **Preparatory work** = draft criteria and their impacts



2. **Consultation** of stakeholders = opinions on draft criteria



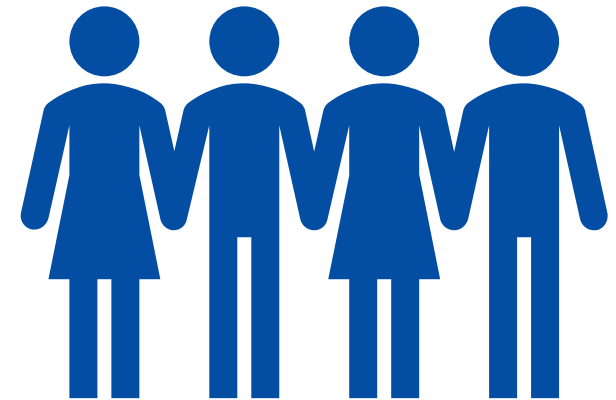
3. **Adoption** by the Commission (delegated act)

Governance, traceability and controls (2)

- Preparatory work:
 - Initiated and payed by **the Commission**
 - Done by **the Commission** [neither EFSA or Reference Centres]
 - **Draft criteria** + impacts + instructions, etc.
 - “non-negotiable” vs “flexible” criteria
 - Explicit **algorithm** (if scoring) but a common one (?)
 - Existing labels vs EU harmonisation

Governance, traceability and controls (3)

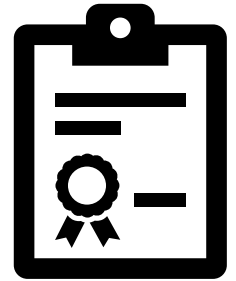
- Consultation of stakeholders:
 - A specific board or another system but:
 - **Business** organisations of the food supply chain
 - **Civil society** organisations
 - **Scientists**
 - **Control** authorities / bodies



Need small groups for specific standards

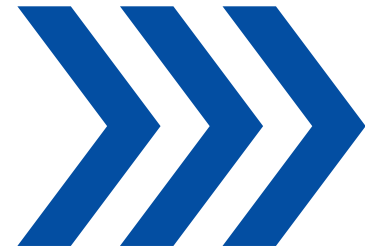
Governance, traceability and controls (3)

- Traceability and controls:
 - No extra-rules for operators under compliance level
 - **Registration** and **certificates** for higher levels
 - **EU database for higher levels**
 - Possible additional controls for higher levels



Next steps

- Descriptive or evaluative label?
- Key criteria across species (again)



Useful links

1. Conclusion of the EU animal welfare platform in June 2021: https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/2021-06/aw_platform_plat-conc_awl-subgroup-conclusion.pdf
2. Study published in March 2022: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/49b6b125-b0a3-11ec-83e1-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>
3. Inception impact assessment on the revision of the animal welfare legislation in July 2021: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12950-Animal-welfare-revision-of-EU-legislation_en
4. Subgroup meetings: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-welfare/eu-platform-animal-welfare/thematic-sub-groups/animal-welfare-labelling_en

Thank you

