



# Subgroup on animal welfare labelling *selection, composition and first meeting*

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# Background

- *Farm to Fork strategy (EU Green Deal)*

*The Commission will also consider **options for animal welfare labelling** to better transmit value through the food chain.*

- *Study to be launched early 2021*
- *Sub-group on animal welfare labelling*





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# The mandate

## To assist the Commission to:

- *Identify* certification schemes
- *Establish common comparison **criteria***
- *Analyse* the selected schemes
- *Propose* key EU actions
- *Establish a **baseline** and **indicators***

### Mandate of the sub-group established under the EU Platform on Animal Welfare to support EU activities on "animal welfare labelling"

As provided in Article 8 (1) of Commission Decision of 24 January 2017 establishing the Commission Expert Group "Platform on Animal Welfare" and in its Rules of Procedure<sup>1</sup>, the Chair of the Platform may set up sub-groups for the purpose of examining specific questions on the basis of terms of reference defined by the Commission.

The Commission and the members of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare (the "Platform") agreed to establish a sub-group on "animal welfare labelling".

#### 1. SCOPE

The sub-group will provide technical expertise and opinions to the Commission on the ways the Union's instruments and policies can better inform consumers on the welfare of animals whilst offering farmers incentives for improving it.

In the context of this mandate, the subgroup will work on the consumption of foods derived from the main farmed species, i.e. eggs, milk, meat from cattle, pigs, sheep, poultry and farmed fish. At this stage, the subgroup will not consider processed food.

The subgroup may consider experiences and opinions derived from the consumption of other products where similar issues may exist (leathers, leather, and fur). The subgroup may also consider experiences and opinions derived from the information on other societal concerns on the same food (carbon footprint, fair trade, etc.) and considering the relevant Farm to Fork strategy objectives.

The subgroup will also consider experiences and opinions, when relevant, from third countries, especially from the main EU trade partners for the food concerned. In that regard, the subgroup will also reflect on the international implications of its opinions, notably with regard to the obligations of the EU towards the World Trade Organisation.

#### 2. OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the labelling sub-group is to collect information on experiences and opinions regarding information to consumers on animal welfare.

For that purpose, the subgroup will perform the following tasks:

1. Identify different certification schemes that claim animal welfare attributes (as main focus or not);
2. Collect and establish the criteria to compare these schemes based on their key characteristics (compulsory or voluntary, state or privately run, generic or sector specific; with animal welfare claims or not, etc.);
3. Establish the criteria to compare these schemes in terms of technical standards (only production methods, use of animal based or resource based indicators, model to integrate criteria, frequency of the audits, etc.).

# The subgroup

- *Members selected on **personal experience***
- *Regularly **reporting** to the Platform*
- *Reflecting the Platform **diversity***
- *Not to represent/replace stakeholders*
- *Not to decide policy options*



# The selection

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- *Call for interest in June 2020*
  - *Deadline for application 15 July*
  - *31 candidates*
  - *10 members selected on 5 October*
  - *Member States/Industry/Civil Society/Expert*



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# List of members

## Member States, EEA members and international organisations

- Ms Christina M. Nygaard /Denmark
- Mr Léon Arnts /the Netherlands
- Ms Teresa Villalba / Spain

## Business and Professional organisations

- Mrs Trine Vig Tamstorf /UECBV
- Ms Marie Guyot /ERPA
- Mr Miguel Angel Higuera /COPA
- Mr Marcin Sokołowski /COGECA

## Organisations from civil society

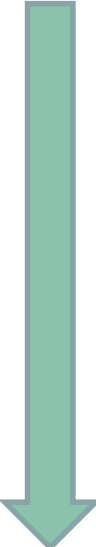
- Ms Alexandra Zach /FOUR PAWS  
international
- Ms Inês Grenho Ajuda /Eurogroup for  
Animals

## Independent experts

- Mr Jarkko Niemi

# Working plan

One meeting/month (7 meetings)

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- *Oct-Nov 2020: finalising methodology*
  - *Jan-Mar 2021: data gathering*
  - *Apr-May 2021: analysis and final conclusions*
  - *June 2021: final presentation to the Platform*

**The outcomes of each meeting will be reported on the Digital Tool**

# Outcome of the first meeting (27/10/20)

- *Presentation of the mandate*
- *Roundtable of members*
- *Discussion on working methods*
- *Distribution of tasks*
- *Planning of the future meetings*





# How the rest of the Platform can contribute?

## By providing information on:

- *Consumers' awareness and expectations on animal welfare*
- *Existing schemes with animal welfare claims*
- *Economic impact (of such schemes) for the food supply chain and consumers*
- *Case studies*
- *Etc.*

Opinions are welcomed but better supported by evidence