

# Meeting of the sub-group on animal welfare labelling

First meeting, 16 March 2022  
(Videoconference)

– MINUTES –

## Attendance

<b>Independent expert</b>	Jarkko Niemi
<b>Civil society organisations</b>	Eurogroup for animals Four Paws
<b>Business and professional organisations</b>	COPA EMN ERPA FVE
<b>Member States</b>	Denmark Germany Spain
<b>European Commission</b>	SANTE G5 SANTE F2

## Discussions

### 1. Context, mandate and timeframe by the Commission

In May 2020, in the context of the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Commission decided to revise the animal welfare legislation. As a follow up, in July 2021, the Commission published an inception impact assessment on the revision of the legislation on animal welfare:

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12950-Revision-of-the-EU-legislation-on-animal-welfare\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12950-Revision-of-the-EU-legislation-on-animal-welfare_en)

The inception impact assessment presents four options on animal welfare labelling, including the baseline option according to which no EU rules on animal welfare labelling exist (status quo). The above options form the basis of the work of the subgroup whose main purpose will be to test the relevance and impact of the options as well as to contribute to the future legislation by providing precise ideas. This task does not include the drafting of legislation

The legislative proposal is planned to be adopted by the last quarter of 2023. The subgroup will have around ten 3-hours meetings on a monthly basis.

Due to narrow timeframe, the subgroup is not going to go into species specific standards. However, the subgroup will reflect on how to formulate the general framework in a way that can

accommodate the species specific scenarios in the future. The Inception Impact assessment options do not exclude other possibilities.

## **2. Roundtable**

The members of the subgroup introduced themselves and presented shortly their background to the group.

## **3. Presentation of the Digital tool**

The Commission presented the functions of the digital tool to exchange information between the members of the group as well as publish information to the rest of the platform (agora).

## **4. Topics of discussion and working method**

The Commission clarified the below rules:

The group will work under the Chatham House rule, i.e. participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

Experts were appointed on a personal basis due to their expertise even if they were proposed by organisations. They are free to express their personal opinion and are not expected to represent their organisation. They are not expressing themselves on behalf of their organisation. Consequently, they have no possibility to be replaced by someone else.

No conclusions will be agreed by the subgroup. Minutes will be issued after each meeting, comprising of the general points made during the meeting.

Experts outside the group may be invited on an ad hoc basis to present their views or technical information. Members of the subgroup may propose experts for this purpose. However, the proposed interventions should not involve private labelling schemes, as the Commission is only interested in an EU-wide legislation.

## **5. Assignments of tasks**

In the next meeting the Commission will present to the subgroup the different options included in the Inception Impact assessment and the possible advantages and disadvantages of each option.

## **6. Calendar for the next meetings**

The dates of the next meetings were agreed as follows: 20th April in the morning, 18th May and 22nd June. Following meetings will be fixed during the next meeting. The first meeting after summer break will take place during the last week of September.

## **7. Miscellaneous**

An expert of the external contractor in charge of the relevant impact assessment study will be invited to follow the next meetings of the subgroup.

The data gathering study on animal welfare labelling will be published most probably by the end of this month.

It is recommended that the members of the subgroup read, for their information, the conclusions of the previous subgroup on animal welfare labelling, which has been active during 2021.

To ensure prompt connection to the meetings, any member that intends to change or use a different email address to connect to the meeting, is advised to notify the Commission beforehand.