



and nutritional factors (including fibre content and quality, protein digestibility, mycotoxins) on tail biting risk is still needed to underpin practical guidelines to farmers.

3. To evaluate appropriate strategies for smooth transitions to new diets such that digestive upsets/reduced feed intake problems are minimized.

### **3. Space and resource competition**

1. Limited availability of provided enrichment. The Directive requires permanent access to a sufficient quantity of material to enable proper investigation. However, more guidance is required on the term "sufficient" to avoid increased tail biting risk because of inadequate provision and therefore competition for resources. To avoid competition over enrichment resources and therefore reduce tail biting risk the optimal strategy for providing enrichment material needs to be better determined.

2. Poor quality and/or functionality of space are considered to challenge the success with which pigs can be reared with intact tails. When space allowances are in line with current legislative minimum requirements there can still be a challenge in successfully rearing pigs with intact tails. For example there is an enhanced risk of pigs suffering from heat stress when space becomes limiting, particularly towards the end of each phase of growth before they are moved to larger pens or sent for slaughter. This can trigger tail biting. Provide more guidance to help meet the different requirements in relation to competition for space and resources (for example feeders and drinkers).

### **Concluding remarks/recommendation**

The sub-group has identified that it is difficult to address requirements that are sometimes very prescriptive but for other areas are "open norms". We recommend therefore providing guidance on how to deal with not only the points raised above but also not to take each requirement in isolation as well as the necessity to treat farms in a case by case basis.