

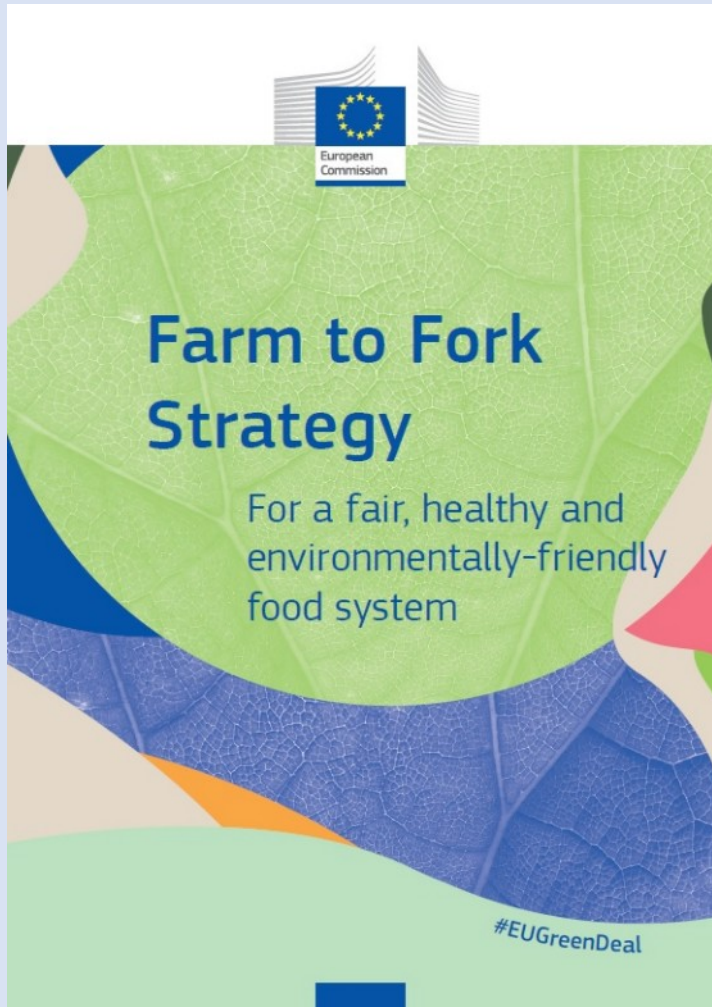
Key initiatives on animal welfare in the European Union: moving towards a new approach

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SANTE G5 - Animal welfare, Antimicrobial resistance



Farm to Fork Strategy



“Better animal welfare improves animal health and food quality, reduces the need for medication and can help preserve biodiversity.”

Fitness check and revision of EU AW legislation

Farm to Fork Strategy

"The Commission will **revise the animal welfare legislation**, including on animal **transport** and the **slaughter** of animals, to align it with the latest scientific evidence, broaden its scope, make it easier to enforce and ultimately **ensure a higher level of animal welfare.**"



5 Directives

- (1) Protection of animals kept for farming purposes
- (4) Protection of laying hens, broilers, pigs, and calves

2 Regulations

- (1) Protection of animals during transport
- (1) Protection of animals at the time of killing

20 May 2020: Fitness Check launched

"After almost half a century since the EU's first animal welfare legislation (1974), the suffering of EU farmed animals is greater than ever. Repeated investigations over decades show long-standing breaches of key provisions of even the minimal legal standards."

"Animal welfare legislation should be developed to consider recent scientific knowledge, technical development and practical problems in the existing legislation in order to improve animal welfare."

Roadmap published for public feedback (20 May – 29 July 2020):

- Around 170 submissions from a mix of industry representatives, trade unions, NGO's and citizens.
- The scope of the fitness check generally accepted; animal transport most prominent.
- Calls for more focus on fish welfare, cattle, fur animals, equine, invertebrates.

"General legislation on farm animal welfare at EU level 98/58 is obsolete. In addition, there is a need to harmonize the enforcement of existing EU-legislation as it is open to different interpretations, e.g. the painful and forbidden routine of tail docking of pigs in many EU countries."

ECI 'End the Cage Age'

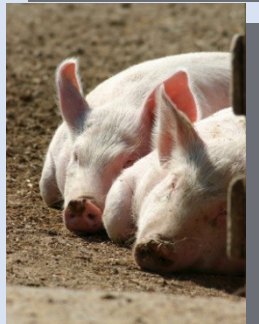
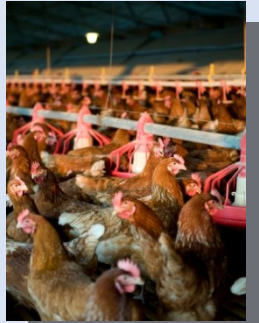
This ECI calls on the Commission to propose legislation to prohibit the use of:

- cages for **laying hens, rabbits, pullets, broiler breeders, layer breeders, quail, ducks and geese;**
- farrowing crates for **sows;**
- **sow stalls**, where not already prohibited;
- individual **calf pens**, where not already prohibited.



Existing provisions on cages

- Laying hens: since 2012 prohibition of barren ('battery') cages
- Sows: since 2013 sows must be kept in groups except for 1 week before the expected time of farrowing and 4 weeks after service
- Calves: since 2007, individual calves pen allowed only until the age of 8 weeks



Reply of the Commission

1. Legislative proposal by the end of 2023 as part of the planned revision of EU animal welfare legislation
2. to phase out and finally prohibit the use of cages for all the animal species and categories referred to in the initiative
3. under conditions (including the length of the transition period) to be determined based on EFSA opinions, the results of an impact assessment and a public consultation.

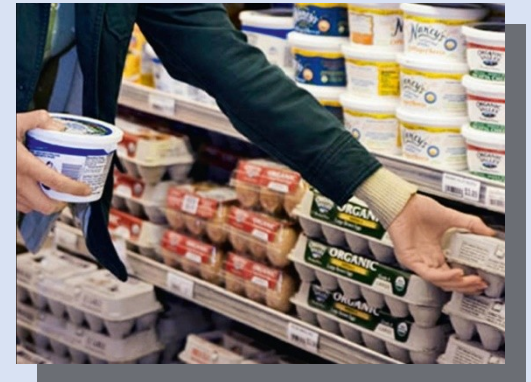
Supportive measures: trade

To explore different options on imports in the impact assessment:

1. enhanced cooperation with trading partners
2. imposing some EU rules on imports
3. animal welfare labelling system that also applies to imports

Other accompanying measures

- Working with food processing industry and retailers to promote cage-free products
- Animal welfare labelling as a tool to incentivise early transition
- Cage-free criteria to be considered in the COM initiative on sustainable food procurement
- Horizon Europe, BTSF, audits, state aids, etc.



Revision of EU AW legislation: IIA

Inception Impact Assessment

INCEPTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT	
<p>Inception Impact Assessments aim to inform citizens and stakeholders about the Commission's plans in order to allow them to provide feedback on the intended initiative and to participate effectively in future consultation activities. Citizens and stakeholders are in particular invited to provide views on the Commission's understanding of the problem and possible solutions and to make available any relevant information that they may have, including on possible impacts of the different options.</p>	
TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE	Revision of the EU legislation on animal welfare
LEAD DG (RESPONSIBLE UNIT)	SANTE (Unit G5: Animal Welfare and Antimicrobial Resistance)
LIKELY TYPE OF INITIATIVE	Legislative proposal of the European Parliament and of the Council
INDICATIVE PLANNING	Q4 2023
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/strategy/evaluation-eu-legislation-welfare-farmed-animals_en
<p>The Inception Impact Assessment is provided for information purposes only. It does not prejudice the final decision of the Commission on whether this initiative will be pursued or on its final content. All elements of the initiative described by the Inception impact assessment, including its timing, are subject to change.</p>	
A. Context, Problem definition and Subsidiarity Check	
<p>Context</p> <p>EU animal welfare policy scope and principles derive from Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, which recognises animals as sentient beings. Article 13 also recognises the need to respect the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of the Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage.</p> <p>The EU legislation on the welfare of farmed animals consists of a Directive concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes and four Directives laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens, broilers, pigs and calves; one Regulation on animal transport and one Regulation on the protection of animals at the time of killing. In other words, it regulates animal welfare at farm level, during transport and at slaughter.</p> <p>The objectives of the EU legislation on animal welfare are to ensure by uniform application and enforcement the welfare of farmed animals, while at the same time allowing rational production and fair competition for EU business operators within the single market, and addressing expectations among citizens and consumers.</p> <p>Under the Farm to Fork Strategy (F2F), the Commission committed to revise this legislation and consider options for animal welfare labelling. The purpose of the revision is to ensure a higher level of animal welfare, broaden the scope of the EU animal welfare legislation, align it with the latest scientific evidence and current political priorities as well as citizen's expectations and make it easier to enforce. Animal welfare is a key component of sustainability in our food chain.</p> <p>On 30 June 2021, the Commission announced in its reply to the 'End of Cages' citizens' initiative that it will put forward a legislative proposal to phase out and finally prohibit the use of cages for certain species in the EU.</p> <p>The revision of the EU animal welfare legislation covers animals – including fish and fur animals – bred and kept for farming purposes, as well as cats and dogs insofar as transport for commercial purposes is concerned. It does not cover wild animals, experimental or laboratory animals (with exception for their welfare during transport) or any invertebrate animals.</p> <p>To gather evidence to feed into such revision, the Commission initiated in 2020 a fitness check of the current rules on the welfare of animals at farm, during transport and at slaughter, to be concluded in 2022. While the fitness check is still ongoing, available information points to weaknesses in the design, implementation, compliance and enforcement of the EU animal welfare legislation. Among others, the current rules seem to be outdated in light of new science and technology, and the lack of clarity of certain provisions results in divergent transposition and implementation across the EU Member States. In turn, this creates an uneven playing field for EU business operators and poses additional challenges to a proper, effective and uniform enforcement by the competent</p>	

- **Feedback period: 06/07-24/08/2021 (i.e. seven weeks)**
- **983 contributions received**, of which 783 came from EU citizens (i.e. 582 come from Poland).
- **General support of the policy options** listed in the IIA (such as a ban on cages).
- **Ongoing: Careful analysis of the feedback received**, to better tailor the legislative proposal (and to feed into the upcoming impact assessment).

Inception Impact Assessment - Feedback

"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."

"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."

Published for public feedback
(6 July - 24 August 2021):

- Almost 1 000 submissions.
- Policy options generally well received, but also some critical voices raised, e.g. against the proposed phasing out of cages and the phasing out of tail-docking and beak trimming.
- Calls on the Commission to do more, e.g. as regards the killing of one-day old male chicks.

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

Revision of EU AW legislation: further consultations

Open public consultation

- **Feedback period: 15/10/2021-21/01/2022 (14 weeks)**
- **https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12950-Animal-welfare-revision-of-EU-legislation_en**

Stakeholder conference

- **9th December 2021, Brussels**
- **Detailed information available soon**

Objective: to gather input on the shortcomings of the current EU animal welfare legislation, and on the possible policy options for addressing them.

Impact Assessment

To assess the economic, social and environmental impact of the envisaged changes to the EU animal welfare legislation.

Farming

- **Requirements for extra animal species**
- **Phase out of cages**
- **Increased space allowance**
- **Prohibition/restrictions of mutilations**



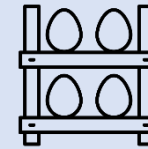
Impact Assessment

F2F: “The Commission will also consider **options for animal welfare labelling** to better transmit **value through the food chain.**”

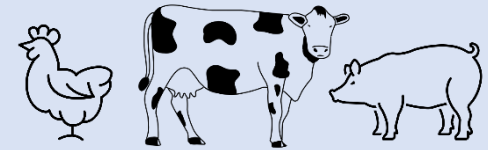
Information to consumers

- **Animal welfare labelling**
- **Welfare requirements for imported products**
- **Use of animal welfare indicators**

Mandatory requirements



Voluntary systems



New EFSA mandates on animal welfare

Mandate	Agreed deadline
Transport	June 2022
Pigs	June 2022
Broilers	December 2022
Laying hens	December 2022
Calves	March 2023

Other mandates are also in the pipeline, but still under discussion and validation

Thank you for your attention

Further information on the Commission website:

[https://
ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-welfare/eci-
end-cage-age_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-welfare/eci-end-cage-age_en)

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