

## ANIMAL WELFARE DURING SLAUGHTER

### BACKGROUND

Every year, 360 million cattle, sheep, pigs and goats, and more than 4 billion of poultry are killed in EU Slaughterhouses. The welfare of animals at the time of slaughter or killing was previously governed by Council Directive 93/119/EC, which has applied since 1995. Since then, changes in scientific knowledge and new technological and market developments have occurred and the legislation was revised to take it into account.

Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing has been applied from 1 January 2013. However for animal welfare NGOs the implementation and enforcement of this new legislation have been far from satisfactory, and this is the reason why a session of the Intergroup of the EP on animal welfare has been organized.

### SOME POSITIVE PROVISIONS

1. **As a Regulation** it can be applied directly in all Member States without variation or interpretation from one country to another, creating a level playing field for operators.
2. **All personnel handling live animals must have a certificate of competence** established after assessment by an independent authority.
3. Compliance of the staff must be permanently supervised by an **Animal Welfare Officer**, nominated by the business operator.
4. **Stunning and restraining equipment** must be accompanied with clear instructions, parameters for use and recommendations, and must be regularly maintained.
5. Member States are **encouraged to use Guides of Good practices** prepared with NGOs.
6. Each Member State must ensure that **scientific support is available** to help the competent authorities approve slaughterhouses or new stunning methods, check manufacturers' instructions and Guides of Good Practice, etc.
7. **Equivalence for third countries:** any abattoir wishing to export meat or product of animal origin to the EU must ensure that it had been produced according to the same rules as in the EU.
8. Some provisions, are on the paper, protecting a bit better **animals slaughtered without stunning**

### SOME ARGUABLE PROVISIONS:

- The **responsibility of protecting animal welfare** is now placed on the food business operators' shoulders. When you see what happened with the hygiene package where they are in charge of safeguarding food safety, one can be worried that they will not play objectively their role.

- Only listed methods can be used to stun or kill the animals. Unfortunately some of them are **a source of very bad animal welfare** such as slaughter without stunning, the use of CO<sub>2</sub> for Pigs and the use of water-bath stunners and these must be phased out.

## THE PRESENTATIONS:

1. **EU Legislation to Protect Animals at the Time of Killing: An NGO Perspective** (Michel Courat, Senior Policy Officer Farm Animals , Eurogroup for Animals) This presentation details the main provisions of the Regulation stressing the main concerns for Eurogroup for animals, in particular the absence of correct monitoring of sensibility or life indicators when animals are slaughtered without stunning; The presentation also stresses other points which are a major concern for animal welfare like the use of electric water-bath stunners, the use of CO<sub>2</sub> for pigs and slaughter without stunning which is still allowed. Hiss presentation concludes by detailing the findings of the inspectors of the FVO during their audits in 2013, 2014 and 2015 and presents Eurogroup for Animals' general demands regarding slaughter.
2. **Use of CO<sub>2</sub> stunning on pigs** (Margreet Steendijk Eyes on Animals) Details all the adverse effects, especially the averseness of CO<sub>2</sub> when used on pigs. After showing shocking images she demands that this inhumane method be phased out.
3. **Slaughter without stunning** (Michel Vandenbosch, Director, Gaia)  
Michel shares his years of experience attending the "celebration" of the Aid el Khebir feast and other occasions where he has seen animals suffering horribly when slaughtered without stunning.

## OUR DEMANDS

- Eurogroup requires **all animals to be stunned before slaughter.**
- **Slaughter without stunning must be banned**
- **CO<sub>2</sub> Stunning must be banned**
- **Electric water-bath stunners must be banned**
- **CCTV** must be installed in all parts of abattoirs where live animals are handled
- **Official Veterinarians and inspectors** must be present in abattoirs at all times when live animals are handled

**#ACT4**  
**FARMANIMALS**