EU Animal Welfare Strategy 2012 - 2015

DG SANCO’s animal welfare related work on international level

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Almost 40 years of EU policies on animal welfare!

- **1974**: First EU legislation on animal welfare
- **1999**: EU Treaty “animals are sentient beings” - Directive protection laying hens: all enriched cage in 12 years
- **1992**: AW Legislation on calves, pigs and transport
- **2001**: Animal welfare fully integrated into food safety policies
- **2003**: Bilateral Agreement EU-Chile includes animal welfare
- **2005**: Welfare Quality Research Project starts + Eurobarometers AW
- **2006-2010**: First Community Action Plan on animal welfare
- **2010**: First evaluation on the EU policy on animal welfare completed
- **2012**: New Strategy associated to Art. 13 of the Treaty
Main goals of the Community Action Plan (2006-2010)

1. Upgrading existing standards;
2. High priority to promoting future research;
3. Introducing the use of animal welfare indicators;
4. Ensuring that animal keepers/handlers as well as the general public are more involved and informed;
5. Enhance external relations with EU commercial partners.
The international scene: multilateral fora


- **Council of Europe** (first Conventions since late 60s)


- **FAO** – **Capacity Building Initiative** (2008)

- **Teaching animal welfare on common scientific bases** (Better Training for Safer Food)

- **Better Training for Safer Food Africa** (Workshops for National Focal Points on Animal Welfare)
European Union strategy for the protection and welfare of animals 2012-2015

Two folds strategy:

- A new legal framework for animal welfare: **holistic** approach to tackle horizontal issues
- Reinforcing/Optimising existing actions: priority to enforcement
Reinforcing existing EU actions

1. *Improve compliance*
2. *International cooperation*
3. *Provide information to consumers and public*
4. *Optimising the Common Agriculture Policy*
Objectives of the strategy

*Support to international cooperation for the implementation of AW standards:*

- Bilateral cooperation through trade agreements and cooperation forums;
- Multilateral activities in the OIE and FAO;
- EU neighbourhood policy involving AW;
- Report on AW and competitiveness in a globalised world (expected
- Organising major international events
- Increase participation of third counties in BTSF

**TARGET:** Enhance the worldwide adoption of AW standard approved by OIE and to improve their contribution to the competitiveness of European livestock producers.
Reinforcing existing EU actions through international cooperation (2)

OIE

• Continued work on the adopted guidelines and on guidelines under development is essential
• The EU will prioritise supporting and participating at both regional events organised by the OIE such as this meeting of focal points and the global conference on animal welfare in Kuala Lumpur in November 2012.
• The Commission will actively support the efforts made by the OIE in establishing standards and in disseminating knowledge on animal welfare
Reinforcing existing EU actions through international cooperation (3)

*FAO*

- Collaborating with FAO on its efforts to increase and disseminate knowledge on animal welfare e.g.
  - by organising major international events
  - through dedicated expert meetings on specific topics such as animal nutrition, welfare of working animals
The international scene (2): bilateral agreements and arrangements

- EU-Chile (2003) – SPS agreement
- EU-Canada (2007) – veterinary agreement
- EU-New Zealand (2007) – aw cooperation forum
- EU-Australia (2008) – aw cooperation forum
- EU-Korea (2009)
- EU-Peru/Colombia (2010)
- EU-Central America (2010)
EU-Chile SPS Agreement and Animal Welfare: a legislative success story

- Establishment of an AW Unit in SAG
- Appointment of the OIE Collaborating Centre on AW
- Favourable conditions to promote
- Development of 4 implementing AW Regulations (Animal Protection Law No 20.380)
- Scientific networking and expertise on AW
- Improved livestock conditions
First Global Conference on Trade and AW: AW as an added value to trade

International Dairy Federation – Animal Welfare Seminar


EU-FAO Workshops on low cost practices and educational strategies to improve farm animal welfare
Reinforcing existing EU actions

International cooperation – ongoing and planned action

- BTSF in Korea - October 2012
- 3rd global OIE conference on AW, Nov. 2012 – Malaysia
- World Veterinary Congress 2013 - Prague, Czech Republic
- Continuation of the bilateral contacts with Third Countries
What future?

- **Outcome-based animal welfare indicators**;
- **Integration of AW policy within the framework of EU neighbourhood policy**;
- **More transparency and information of products with high added value of AW**;
- **Better distribution of additional costs of AW along the food chain**;
- **Better use of resources of the CAP**.
1. Highlight our existence

*Media tools - events*

- **First EU conference on animal welfare** – 2006
- **International conference on global trade and farm animal welfare** – 2009
  - More than 400 participants
  - Aim: analysing perspectives of farm animal welfare in the trade environment
2. Raise awareness on current legislation

**Media tools - publications**

- **AW newsletter – 5 issues (2010-2012)**
  - Paper versions - disseminated in specific AW events
3. Present our objectives

- Increase compliance with EU legislation – better coordination with MS
- Improve information and education on animal welfare to consumers, retailers, food services and food processors
- Encourage the use of animal based indicators
- Provide tools to better innovate and promote actions on animal welfare for commercial sectors dealing with animals
- Enhance and optimise international cooperation
4. Boost understanding of EU legislation

Conference on EU animal welfare strategy, Brussels 2012

- **Aim:** present the strategy and raise consumers' empowerment on animal welfare
- **Participants:** representatives from national and international organisations, veterinarians, farmers, producers, retailers, academics, scientists and NGO's.
- **Web-streaming of 2 days & parallel sessions**
- **Video on the new AW strategy:**
EPAA Membership

- 5 Commission Directorates-General
- 7 European trade federations for 7 industry sectors
- 35 Companies
EPAA Lead Theme 2012:

Development and implementation of 3R methodologies through international cooperation
Goals for international cooperation (2012 and beyond)

1. Promote best science to obtain the right 3R tools for regulatory assessments through international cooperation

2. Foster / accelerate regulatory acceptance of 3R approaches; optimize implementation through international cooperation

3. Distribute information and advocate for appropriate perception / usage of 3R approaches through international cooperation

4. Develop international perspectives and synergies on Public-Private Partnerships & 3Rs implementation with US Food and Drugs Administration (FDA)
International Cooperation on 3Rs

8th EPAA Annual Conference

16 November 2012
Brussels

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