

# The EU legislation to protect animals at the time of killing: an NGOs perspective

Michel Courat

*Senior Policy Officer Farm Animals | Eurogroup for Animals*



# Overview

- A few figures
- Main general changes
- Negative Points & Slaughter without stunning
- Implementation and enforcement
- The next steps
- Our demands

# A few figures

- 360 Mio *Cattle, Pigs and Sheep*
- 4 Bio *Poultry*
- 25 Mio *Fur animals*
- 330 Mio *Day Old chicks*
- + ? Killing for disease purposes

# Main General changes

1st  
January  
2013

Reg (EC)  
1099/2009

- Certificate of competence and AW Officer
- Monitoring procedures: *especially important for slaughter without stunning.*
- Guides of Good Practice (article 13) 
- Standard Operating Procedures
- Equivalent rules for importing third countries.
- Stricter national rules
- **New rules for slaughter without stunning**



# Other changes



1st  
January  
2013

Reg (EC)  
1099/2009

- ❖ It is a **regulation**, not a directive
- ❖ Stunning and restraining **equipment**
- ❖ Creation of a **scientific support**
- ❖ **New standards, technical indicators**
- ❖ **Killing for disease control**



- ❖ AW: Business **operators'** responsibility
- ❖ Approved stunning/killing **methods listed in Annex 1**



# Negative points

- **SLAUGHTER WITHOUT STUNNING**
- **Use of aversive CO2 for pigs**
- **Water bath stunners**
- **Scope:**
  - Amphibians, reptiles, cephalopods, decapod crustaceans out
  - Fish: general provisions only
  - Cultural or sportive events out of scope
- **Killing on farm**



# SLAUGHTER WITHOUT STUNNING

- All animals to be stunned before slaughter
- Details on Michel Vandebosch's ppt
- **Still allowed** (*Art 10 Charter of Fundamental rights of the EU*)
- **Use of rotative box** (*study due in 2012*)



But....



# SLAUGHTER WITHOUT STUNNING

Specific training for sacrificators

Certificate of competence

AW Officer

Ruminants mechanically restrained

Standard Operating Procedures

Guides of Good Practice (art 13)

Individually restrained

Two carotids  
to be severed

Stricter national rules





# SLAUGHTER WITHOUT STUNNING

## *Main point:* Monitoring procedures

- ❑ **SYSTEMATIC:** Checks showing loss of consciousness or sensibility before animals are released from the restraining system, and no signs of life before start of **dressing**\* must be **systematic**

\* i.e. Hoisting

- ❑ If this provision were strictly respected, the speed of the line for ritually slaughtered animals without stunning will be very slow, and **thus incompatible with usual commercial speeds...**



# Implementation and enforcement

## Absence of preparedness

- Conference organised by Commission and UECBV **late October 2012**
- Evaluation of preparation : **19/27** responses !
- **0 Guide Good Practices** validated ( 1 in February 2013)
- 80 % ( out of 19 MS) have a system of certificate of competence
- 50% ( out of 19 MS) have established a scientific support
- On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013, **only 4 countries were considering they could be ready: DK, DE, SE, UK**

# Implementation and enforcement

## **FVO Audits** in 14 MS: *EE (2013) - LV, IT, ES, UK, DK, CZ, DE, HU, AT, NL, BE (2014) – PL, FR (2015)*

- ❖ Overall, AW at slaughter improving
- ❖ Red meat generally better than poultry
- ❖ Training of staff: overall positive



- ❖ **Slaughter without stunning is a welfare problem,**
- ❖ **Electrical water bath stunners**
- ❖ Guides to good practice are missing in most countries
- ❖ Scientific support generally in place, but rarely utilised by the CA
- ❖ **Unfit animals still transported**



**Main finding: NO MEMBER STATE FULLY COMPLIANT**

# The Next Steps

## NO MS IS FULLY COMPLYING WITH THE LEGISLATION

- Only five audit reports received ( out of 14) !
- Overview report in June analyzing all inspections will be presented
- Stakeholder consultation in September ???
- BTSF training ( Better Training for Safer Food) in October 2015 to improve implementation.
- Transitional period 3 years
- **No infringement procedure** envisaged

# Our demands

## WE URGE THE COMMISSION :

- To ban slaughter without pre stunning
- To ensure that Official Veterinarians and inspectors are present at all times
- To make CCTV controls compulsory

# Our demands

## WE URGE THE COMMISSION :

- To phase out CO<sub>2</sub> stunning for pigs
- To phase out electric waterbath stunners
- To properly check Standard Operating Procedures
- To encourage the diffusion of Guides of Good Practice approved by NGOs

**Thank you for your  
attention**

[m.courat@eurogroupforanimals.org](mailto:m.courat@eurogroupforanimals.org)

