



Animal welfare within the Farm to Fork strategy

Intergroup on the welfare and conservation of animals

European Parliament, 30 June 2020

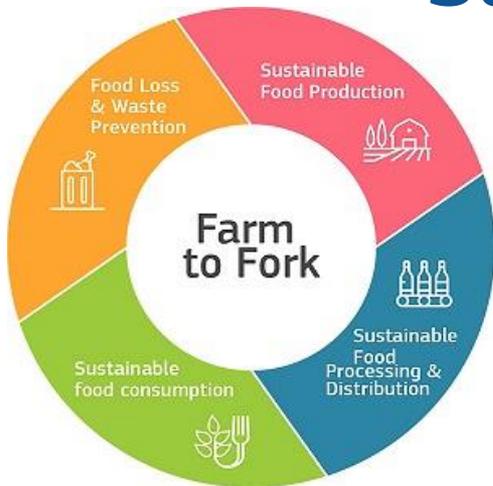
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The views expressed are purely those of the speaker and may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of the European Commission.



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Animal Welfare and sustainable food systems



"European food should become the global standard for sustainability."

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

*"EU trade policy should continue to contribute to enhance cooperation with and to obtain ambitious commitments from third countries in **key areas such as animal welfare**, the use of pesticides and the fight against **antimicrobial resistance**."*

Point of reflection

What further actions (legislative and non-legislative) might be necessary to align the EU's animal welfare objectives to the sustainability goals of the Green Deal and of the Farm to Fork Strategy?



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Main animal welfare objectives of the Farm to Fork Strategy (F2F)

Evaluation and revision of the existing animal welfare legislation, including on animal transport and slaughter of animals

Q4
2023

Why? To align the EU legislation to the latest scientific evidence, broaden its scope, make it easier to enforce and ultimately ensure a higher level of animal welfare.

Proposal for a sustainable food labelling framework to empower consumers to make sustainable food choices

2024

How we will achieve this?

The tentative work program

- The first step is to achieve the evaluation of the legislation (**fitness check**). It has already started with the publication of the roadmap on 20/5/2020.
- The **fitness check** will be concluded with a **staff working document** by the end of 2021 or early 2022.
- The plan is to start the **impact assessment** and the **legal drafting** from that date in order to adopt legislative proposals (if needed) by the **end of 2023**.

Purpose of the Fitness Check

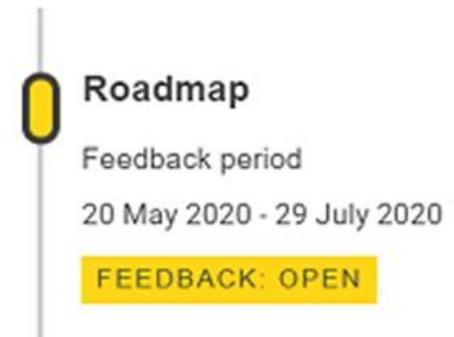
- Obtain solid evidence through stakeholders' consultation, literature research, audit reports, and relevant studies – including the results of the evaluation of the EU Animal Welfare Strategy.
- Assess e.g. the extent to which the legislation is still relevant to pursue the objective of ensuring a high level of animal welfare in the context of the Farm to Fork Strategy.

Scope of the Fitness Check

- Council Directive 98/58/EC (animals kept for farming)
- Council Directive 1999/74/EC (laying hens)
- Council Directive 2007/43/EC (broilers)
- Council Directive 2008/119/EC (calves)
- Council Directive 2008/120/EC (pigs)
- Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 (transport)
- Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 (killing)

State of play of the Fitness Check

- Roadmap open for public feedback until 29 July 2020:
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12400-Fitness-Check-of-the-EU-legislation-on-animal-welfare>
- Examples of steps to follow:
 - targeted consultation activities
 - a 12 weeks public on-line consultation
 - a stakeholder conference.
- The EP Animal Welfare Intergroup will also be used where relevant to complement the consultation process.



Animal Welfare Labelling

Animal welfare labelling could contribute to the objective of the Farm to Fork strategy as part of a proposal for a sustainable food labelling framework, to empower consumers to make sustainable food choices.

Planning work:

- Subgroup of the EU Platform on AW (June 2020);
- External study (Q1 2021*);
- Approach decided (2022*)
- Target date: 2024

(*tentative)



Conclusions

- Around 3 years of work ahead with the active contributions of main stakeholders;
- Scientific updates necessary considering the sustainability of farming activities (EFSA);
- Potential reform for the EU legislation on animal welfare (some more than 20 years old);
- Scenario open to several approaches contributing to the sustainability agenda in F2F;
- Potential effects on international and trade policies for food and animals.