



# A European perspective on creating standards and assuring compliance

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[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/index_en.htm)



## A European perspective on creating standards and assuring compliance

- Creating Animal Welfare Standards in the European Union: *an evolutive story*
- Insuring compliance of EU legislation on Animal Welfare: *a continuous challenge*
- Raising Animal Welfare awareness at European and International level: *a major issue*



## Creating animal welfare standards in the EU: an evolutive story

- More than 30 years ago: first directive on slaughter of animals
- Growing body of Community legislation on the protection of animals based on fundamental principles of EU Treaty: subsidiarity, proportionality, common EU market
- Main scope of EU legislation on animal welfare
  - Protection of animals kept for farming purposes
  - Protection of animals during transport
  - Protection of animals at the time of killing
  - Protection of animals used for scientific purposes
  - Regulation on trade in seal products
  - Ban on cat and dog fur

## Creating animal welfare standards in the EU: an evolutive story

- General legislation on farm animals
- Basic principle: Obligation for the MS to ensure that owners of animals take all reasonable steps to ensure the welfare of animals under their care.
- Specific legislation for farm animals raised in intensive systems: laying hens, calves, pigs, broilers (2010)





# Creating animal welfare standards in the EU: an evolutive story



## Creating animal welfare standards in the EU: an evolutive story

- Regulation on the protection of animals during transport
- Directive (then Regulation from 2013) on the protection of animals at killing





## Creating animal welfare standards in the EU: an evolutive story

- Minimum AW standards applicable in all MS
- MS can adopt stricter national rules
- Standards based and updated according to the latest Scientific Knowledge
- Applicability of standards discussed with full spectrum of stakeholders
- Current legislation mainly resource and mangement based



## Creating animal welfare standards in the EU: an evolutive story

- Cultural and ethical changes in Europe (results of Eurobarometer on the perception of EU citizens on AW)
- Significant legal changes: Animals are sentient beings (Protocol on AW annexed to the EC Treaty of Amsterdam)
- Obligations of the Commission to pay full regard to AW when implementing agricultural and environmental policies
- Evolutive trend confirmed by the Treaty of Lisbon (The protocol will become an article of the Treaty)



## Creating animal welfare standards in the EU: an evolutive story

- Recent evolution in the format: Regulations vs Directives
  - Regulation directly applicable
  - Harmonised common market
- Recent evolution in the main concepts of the legislation
  - Farm to Fork approach
  - Responsibilities of Business Operators
  - Training of operators
  - Standard operating procedures
  - Independence of scientific advice (European Food Safety Authority)



# Creating animal welfare standards in the EU: an evolutive story

## FARM



## FORK



9-11 November 2009

AVMA/AAVMC Educational Symposium on Animal Welfare



## Creating animal welfare standards in the EU: an evolutive story

- Further evolution in the concepts with the Community funded research project « Welfare Quality® »
  - System to enable overall assessment of welfare and the standardised conversion of welfare measures into summary information
  - Animal Welfare indicators based on the outcomes at animal levels
  - In future legislation integration of animal-based measures instead of/or with resource and management-based measures



## Assuring compliance of EU legal standards on Animal Welfare: a continuous challenge

- Commission « Guardian of the Treaty » responsible for ensuring that Community legislation is implemented by MS
- MS primarily responsible for implementing AW legislation
- Legal basis: General Regulation on official controls for food safety, animal health and animal welfare

## Assuring compliance of EU legal standards on Animal Welfare: a continuous challenge

- The Commission inspection service of Directorate-General for Health and Consumers, Food and Veterinary Office, FVO, Ireland
- Veterinary experts from the Commission: on the spot inspections in the 27 Member States of the EU
- Audit of the systems of controls on animal welfare put in place by the MS





## Assuring compliance of EU legal standards on Animal Welfare: a continuous challenge

- Organisation of the control services in MS (training of officials, doc procedures for inspections, penalties)
- Reports and recommendations publicly available on the website of DG SANCO
- Infringement procedures



## Assuring compliance of EU legal standards on Animal Welfare: a continuous challenge

- Animal welfare included within the recently reformed Common Agricultural Policy
- Principle of Cross-compliance with animal welfare standards for beneficiaries of direct payments
- Support for investments in agricultural holdings to improve animal welfare



## Raising animal welfare awareness

- Why? Information to main actors of the food chain: citizens, farmers, retailers, veterinarians, scientists, politicians
- Ensure a better understanding of EU citizens' concerns on animal welfare at European and International level
- Raising knowledge on animal welfare in Third Countries, including Developing Countries, and creating opportunities for trade

## Raising animal welfare awareness

### ■ Animal Welfare Labelling

- Commission Report which outlines a series of options for animal welfare labelling
- Easier for consumers to identify and choose welfare-friendly products
- Economic incentive to producers to improve the welfare of animals

## Raising animal welfare awareness

- **Establishing a European Network of Reference Centres for the protection and welfare of animals**
  - Technical support for the development and implementation of animal welfare policies, including regarding certification and labelling
  - Centre of excellence, for the exchange of information
  - Stakeholders interaction, best practices



## Raising animal welfare awareness

### ■ Better Training for Safer Food:

- Organisation of workshops in MS, Candidate countries, Third Countries

### ■ Communication on best farming practices to improve enforcement

- Workshop on pig welfare



## Raising Animal Welfare Awareness

- Proactive role of the European Commission at international level
- Support initiatives of the OIE- World Organisation for Animal Health – OIE (174 countries) to develop internationally recognised welfare standards and guidelines
  - Standards already adopted on the protection of animals during transport (land, air, sea), at slaughter and at killing for disease control purposes
  - Further initiatives to develop standards on transport of fish, experimental animals, keeping of farm animals)



## Raising Animal Welfare Awareness

### ■ Working links between the European Commission and the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)

➤ FAO Initiative on Capacity Building to implement Good Animal Welfare Practices

➤ FAO Gateway to farm animal welfare

<http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/animal-welfare/en/>



## Raising Animal Welfare Awareness

- Incorporation of AW standards into bilateral agreements between the EU and non EU countries suppliers of animals and animal products (Chile, Canada)
- Specific submission to the WTO on animal welfare and agricultural trade
- Conference on Global Trade and Farm Animal Welfare in Brussels in January 2009
- International conference in Uppsala in October 2009: round table on trade issues with participation of US representative

# Raising Animal Welfare Awareness

- Interactive and online computer game for children
- Information about the origin and production of food and the needs of farmed animals
- Help tomorrow's consumers to make informed choices
- <http://www.farmland-thegame.eu/>



## Conclusion

- Initiatives for the future
- Thank you for your attention

