

Revision of the EU Animal Welfare legislation



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Meeting of Market Advisory Council
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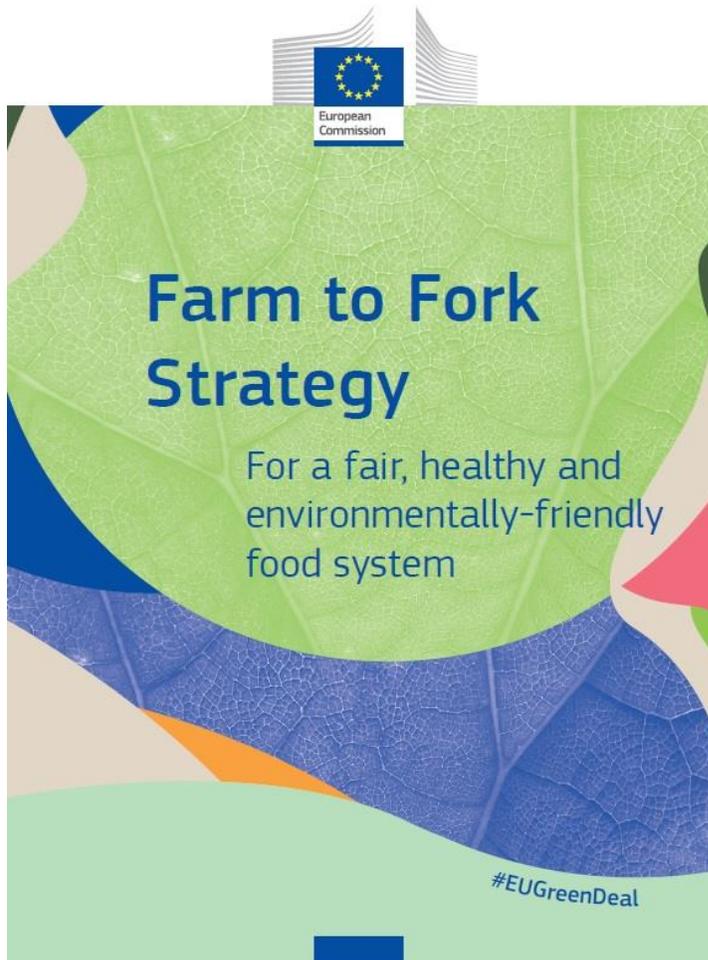


European
Commission

EU animal welfare legislation

- Article 13 TFEU
- **5 Directives** on animals kept in farms:
 - All farm animals
 - Laying hens
 - Calves
 - Pigs
 - Chickens for meat production
- **2 Regulations**:
 - Animal transport
 - Killing of animals

Farm to Fork Strategy

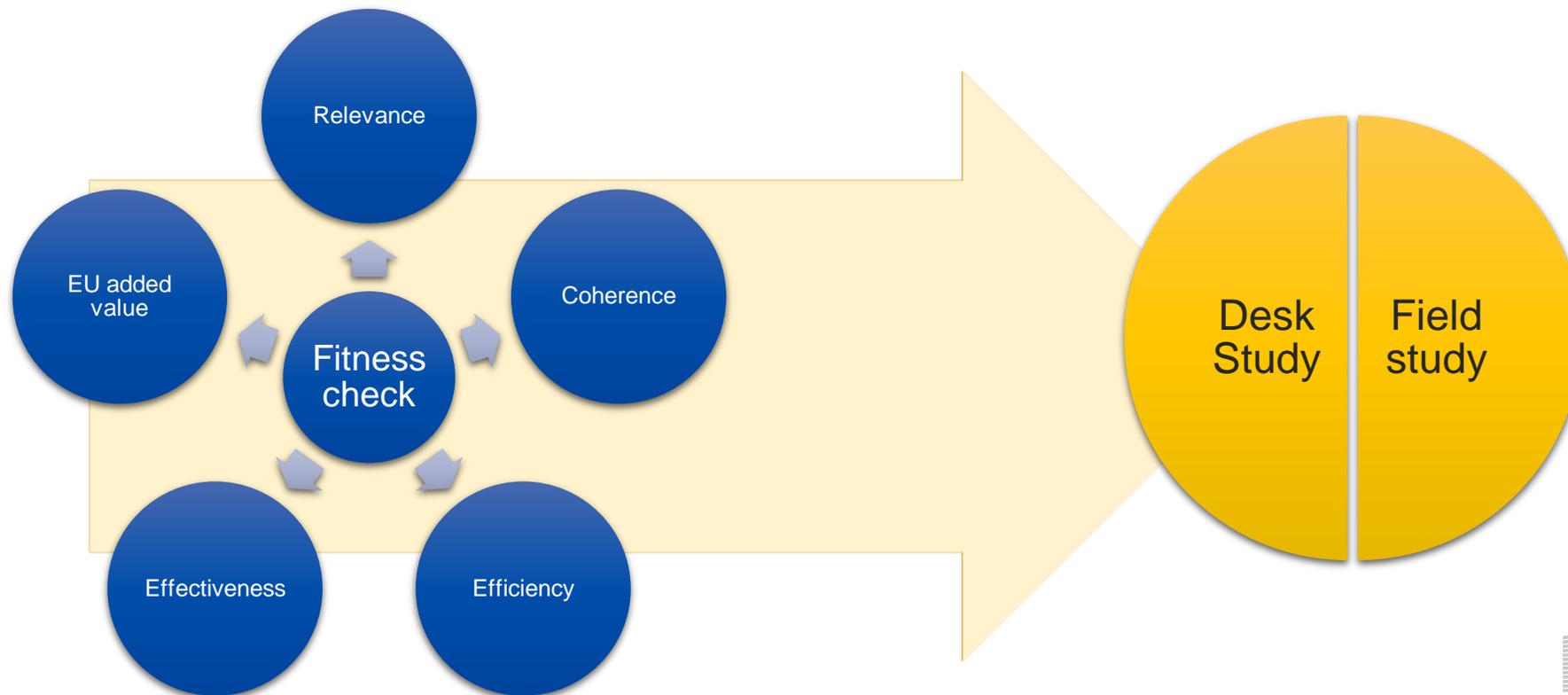


“Better animal welfare improves animal health and food quality, reduces the need for medication and can help preserve biodiversity.”

*“The Commission will **revise the animal welfare legislation**, including on animal **transport** and the **slaughter** of animals, to align it with the latest scientific evidence, broaden its scope, make it easier to enforce and ultimately **ensure a higher level of animal welfare.**”*

Fitness Check

- Evaluation of the existing EU animal welfare legislation



Fitness Check: preliminary results

- Lack of clarity of certain provisions.
- Lack of specific, updated and detailed requirements.
- Lack of tools to monitor, measure and report.
- Lack of training and competencies.
- Insufficient and uneven information to consumers.

Impact Assessment



Ref. Ares(2021)4402068 - 06/07/2021

INCEPTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT	
Inception Impact Assessments aim to inform citizens and stakeholders about the Commission's plans in order to allow them to provide feedback on the intended initiative and to participate effectively in future consultation activities. Citizens and stakeholders are in particular invited to provide views on the Commission's understanding of the problem and possible solutions and to make available any relevant information that they may have, including on possible impacts of the different options.	
TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE	Revision of the EU legislation on animal welfare
LEAD DG (RESPONSIBLE UNIT)	SANTE (Unit G5: Animal Welfare and Antimicrobial Resistance)
LIKELY TYPE OF INITIATIVE	Legislative proposal of the European Parliament and of the Council
INDICATIVE PLANNING	Q4 2023
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/strategy/evaluation-eu-legislation-welfare-farmed-animals_en
The Inception Impact Assessment is provided for information purposes only. It does not prejudice the final decision of the Commission on whether this initiative will be pursued or on its final content. All elements of the initiative described by the Inception impact assessment, including its timing, are subject to change.	
A. Context, Problem definition and Subsidiarity Check	
Context	
EU animal welfare policy scope and principles derive from Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, which recognises animals as sentient beings. Article 13 also recognises the need to respect the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of the Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage.	
The EU legislation on the welfare of farmed animals consists of a Directive concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes and four Directives laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens , broilers , pigs and calves : one Regulation on animal transport and one Regulation on the protection of animals at the time of killing . In other words, it regulates animal welfare at farm level, during transport and at slaughter.	
The objectives of the EU legislation on animal welfare are to ensure by uniform application and enforcement the welfare of farmed animals, while at the same time allowing rational production and fair competition for EU business operators within the single market, and addressing expectations among citizens and consumers.	
Under the Farm to Fork Strategy (F2F), the Commission committed to revise this legislation and consider options for animal welfare labelling. The purpose of the revision is to ensure a higher level of animal welfare, broaden the scope of the EU animal welfare legislation, align it with the latest scientific evidence and current political priorities as well as citizen's expectations and make it easier to enforce. Animal welfare is a key component of sustainability in our food chain.	
On 30 June 2021, the Commission announced in its reply to the 'End of Cages' citizens' initiative that it will put forward a legislative proposal to phase out and finally prohibit the use of cages for certain species in the EU.	
The revision of the EU animal welfare legislation covers animals – including fish and fur animals – bred and kept for farming purposes, as well as cats and dogs insofar as transport for commercial purposes is concerned. It does not cover wild animals, experimental or laboratory animals (with exception for their welfare during transport) or any invertebrate animals.	
To gather evidence to feed into such revision, the Commission initiated in 2020 a fitness check of the current rules on the welfare of animals at farm, during transport and at slaughter, to be concluded in 2022. While the fitness check is still ongoing, available information points to weaknesses in the design, implementation, compliance and enforcement of the EU animal welfare legislation. Among others, the current rules seem to be outdated in light of new science and technology, and the lack of clarity of certain provisions results in divergent transposition and implementation across the EU Member States. In turn, this creates an uneven playing field for EU business operators and poses additional challenges to a proper, effective and uniform enforcement by the competent	

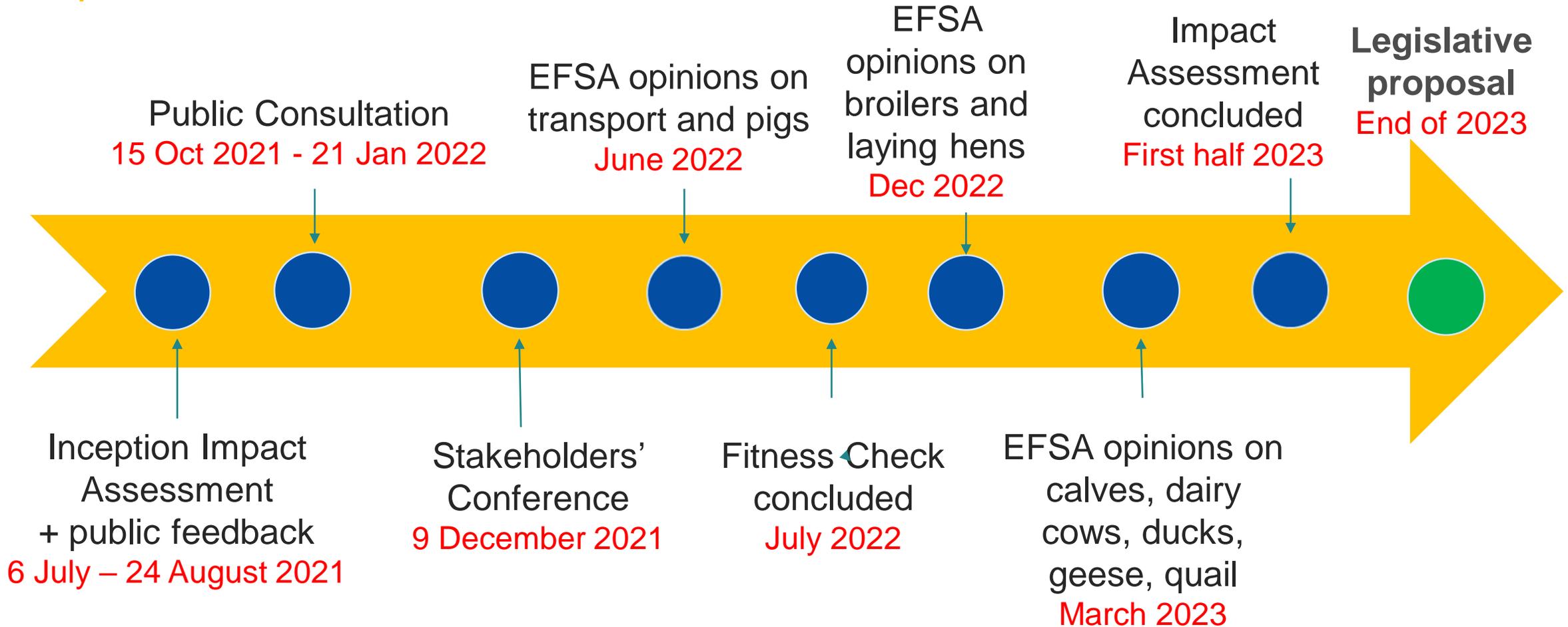
- Launched with an “Inception Impact Assessment”
- Feedback period: 06/07-24/08/2021 (i.e. seven weeks)
- 983 contributions received.
- **Open Public Consultation** until 21.01.2022:
- 59281 contributions received.

Ongoing main EFSA mandates on animal welfare

Mandate*	Agreed deadline
Transport	June 2022
Pigs	June 2022
Broilers**	December 2022
Laying hens**	December 2022
Calves	March 2023
Ducks, geese, quail	March 2023
Dairy cows	March 2023

- Mandates for rabbits and for slaughter are already available.
- ** Also addressing broiler breeders, pullets and layer breeders.

Timeline



Roadmap of future mandates to EFSA

- 26 October 2021: Commission sent roadmap to EFSA indicating its planned future mandates in the area of farm animal welfare, after 2023:
 - Beef cattle
 - Sheep and goats
 - Turkeys
 - **Farmed salmon and trout** (June 2026); **farmed carp** (June 2027); **farmed sea bass, sea bream, European eel** (June 2028); **farmed tune** (December 2029)
 - Ducks, geese and quail
 - Equines
 - Minks, racoon dogs, foxes
 - **Certain invertebrates such as decapods** (December 2030)

Specific actions related to aquatic animals

- **Inception Impact Assessment** includes 2 options for the **killing of fish**:
 - Option 1 : provisions for the **five main species** of farmed fish (Atlantic salmon, common carp, rainbow trout, European sea bass and gilthead sea bream)
 - Option 2 : provisions for **two species** (European sea bass and gilthead sea bream)
- **EFSA roadmap**
 - Scientific opinions on other aspects than killing
 - Published on SANTE website (https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/2021-10/aw_eval_revision_roadmap_efsas.pdf).

Thank you!