

# **EU Welfare Legislation: history, today and future**

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# EU Welfare Legislation

- History and background
- Procedures
- Legislation today
- Control and sanctions
- Future



# History and background

- EU record of more than 30 years AW legislation
- AW public and political concern within EU
- Started ad hoc: → broadening scope
  - upgraded
  - more structured



# History and background

- Who has lead: EU or Member State (subsidiarity)?
- EU minimum standards, MS possibility for more stringent rules



## History and background

- 1998 horizontal “Directive on the protection of animals kept for farming purposes” (5 freedoms)
- 1999 “Protocol on protection and welfare of animals”, linked to Treaty
- 2004 “Action Plan on Animal welfare”



# Procedures

- European Commission initiates
- Council (MS) adopts
- Parliament advises



# Procedures

- Scientific opinion EFSA
- Socio-economic impact analysis
- Evaluation → Ongoing process



# AW Legislation today

- Horizontal Directive for farm animals
- Laying hens
- Pigs
- Veal calves
- Transport
- Slaughter
- (Broilers)

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# AW Legislation today: pigs

- Last upgrade 2001
- Individual stalls (2013) and tethers (2006) banned
- Minimum space requirements for piglets, weaning pigs, sows/gilts
- Requirements concerning type of floor
- Max. width openings slatted floors



# AW Legislation today: pigs

- Permanent access to rooting and playing material
- Training and instructions for stockmen and personnel
- Minimum light intensity
- Evaluation report (scientific opinion + socio-economic impact) 2009



# AW Legislation today: veal calves

- Last upgrade 1997
- Ban on individual pens/boxes > 8 weeks
- Minimum space requirements
- Minimum daily ration of fibrous food



# AW Legislation today: veal calves

- Minimum requirements for light
- Minimum age of 10 days before entering in holding
- Evaluation report (scientific opinion + socio-economic impact) 2008



# AW Legislation today: transport

- Last upgrade 2004
- Authorisation of a route plan
- Registration and approval of the transporter
- Approval of means of transport



# AW Legislation today: transport

- Satellite navigation system
- Journey log
- Ban on transport of young animals  
(piglets < 10 kg, veal calves < 14 days)
- Detailed ventilation requirements



# AW Legislation today: transport

- Resting times (feeding, watering)
- Max 24 hours for pigs
- Minimum loading densities
- Ambitions for reducing travelling times and stocking densities not fulfilled
- Evaluation report (scientific opinion + socio-economic impact) ??



# AW Legislation today: slaughter

- Last upgrade 1993
- Movement and lairaging
- Restraining
- Stunning (positive list of permitted methods and detailed rules for each of them)
- New proposals on its way



# Control and sanctions

- MS: implementation, controls, sanctions
- Inform (notify) EC about schemes and results
- FVO checks
- Penalties, withdrawal of authorisation, cross compliance



# AW Action Plan 2006-2010

- More clear direction of EU policy on animal welfare
- Upgrade existing minimum standards and include new species or issues
- Introduce standardized animal welfare indicators
- Continue to support and initiate further international initiatives

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