



# Strategy for animal welfare: problems, impacts and policy options to be assessed

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



# Introduction

- **Community Action Plan 2006-2010**
- **Paulsen's report: May 2010**
- **Evaluation on the EU policy on animal welfare: Dec 2010**
- **New Strategy** foreseen for December 2011



## Indicative time frame

- Jan-Mar: Member States and Stakeholders' **consultations**
- April: **Finalisation of IA** (impact assessment)
- Jun: **Presentation to IA Board**
- July: **Correction of the IA**
- Sep- Oct: **Inter-service consultation**
- Nov: **Translation**
- Dec: **Adoption**

# Problem definition

- Enforcement
- Competitiveness of farmers
- Communication to consumers and stakeholders
- Science and innovation
- Scope of EU legislation





# Enforcement

- Member States problem but...need EU supervision
- **Lack of awareness** and training of parties concerned
- **Conflicts** with economic interests
- **Complexity** and rigidity of the legislation

# Competitiveness of farmers

- Animal welfare **additional costs**
- EU standards not enough known by consumers
- **No equivalent standards** in third countries competing with EU producers



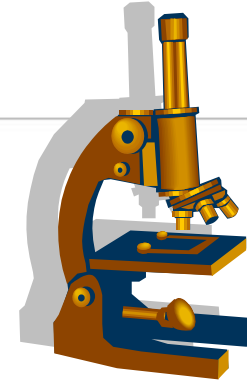


## Communication to consumers and stakeholders

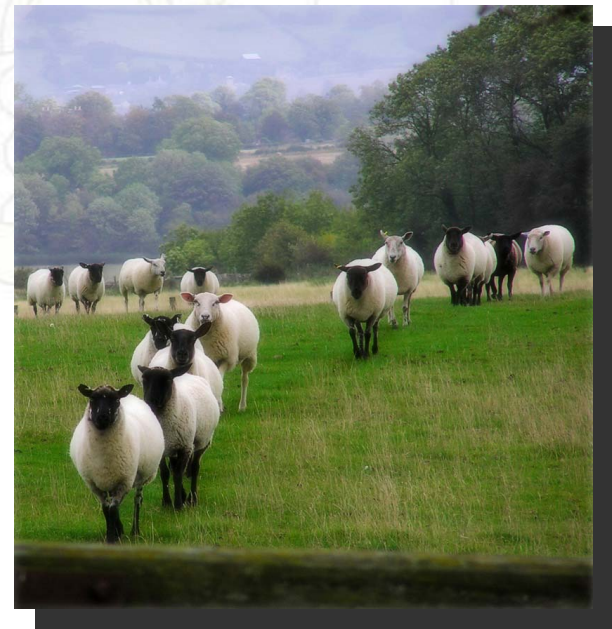
- **64% consumers** are worried for animal welfare (EU average)
- **No information** for most products
- Most private schemes **under 20% market share** (national level)
- Stakeholders not **sufficiently informed** on what to do



# Science and innovation



- To clarify animals needs
- To **optimise animals needs** and economic sustainability
- To **better disseminate** results at practical level





## Scope of the EU legislation

- Case of dogs and cats (120 million animals)
- **No specific EU provisions for many farmed species** (dairy cows, fish, rabbits, turkeys, etc.)
- **Council of Europe stop**





# Our objectives

## ■ General objectives:

- A level of protection in line with citizens concerns
- Consistency between EU policies within and outside EU
- Level playing fields between operators

# Our objectives

## ■ Specific objectives

- To maintain and enhance the welfare of animals through legislation and enforcement; (Legislation area)
- To develop a common understanding of animal welfare issues at international level; (international area)
- To improve understanding of animal welfare issues by the public and stakeholders; (communication area)
- To improve our overall understanding of animal welfare issues and develop knowledge to guide effective and efficient delivery policy (research area).



# Policy options

- No action (Baseline)
- We do more with same tools (non-legislative option)
- We do differently (legislative options)

## Non legislative option (Option A)

- **Communication and education**
- **Corporate Social Responsibility**
- **Research**
- **Improved coordination**
- **International initiatives**



**No new law but increased resources = Need long term commitment**



# Possible outcomes of option A

- A study for better communication and education on animal welfare to the EU consumer and the follow up actions
- A campaign to promote animal welfare in CSR for food processors, retailers and caterers
- to allow animal welfare as a message to be eligible for promotion measures
- Developing BTSF initiatives as to extend the scope of participants through e-learning modules on all the set of EU legislation on animal welfare and making them accessible in all EU languages and to different publics
- Developing Farmland and educational tools related to it.
- Extending EU research projects on animal welfare
- Drafting and publishing of guidelines of interpretation for each specific pieces of EU legislation on animal welfare
- Developing a specific cooperation program on animal welfare with neighbouring countries



# Legislative option (Option B)

## ■ Framework law with co-regulation

- General principles: duty of care, etc.
- Wider scope (but subsidiarity test)
- Competence for staff
- Animal welfare indicators for monitoring procedures
- Co-regulation mechanism and incentives
- A European Network of Reference Centres



## Possible outcomes of Option 1



- An impact assessment study including subsidiarity test for new species
- A Commission legislative proposal for a general animal welfare law (with ENRC)



# Impact assessment



## ■ On the main and specific objectives

- Enforcement and legislation
- International issues (competitiveness)
- Public and stakeholders understanding (Communication area)
- Research area

## ■ On other areas

- Economic
- Social
- Environmental





## Stakeholders' opinions and data

- **Your understanding** and opinion on the options (how you see the option working and if positive, negative or neutral)
- **Your data and experiences** in relation to the options
- **Your assessment** on the possible impacts listed (qualitative and quantitative)
- **Your priorities**

## Example of possible data

- Experience on **co-regulation** mechanisms and incentives (compulsory/voluntary)
- Effect of education in improving compliance
- Experience and economics of applying Animal Welfare Quality principles



Thank you for your attention!

- **Deadline for contribution 28/2**
- **Contributions and comments to**
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