



European Commission Health & Consumers Directorate General

Workshop on pig welfare

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The views expressed may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of the European Commission

Consumer's demand

- for food produced with high animal welfare standards
- for more sustainable and higher welfare production, not only for inexpensive pork meat
- there is a need to improve the welfare of pigs kept for meat production
- improvements can be achieved through better implementation of current legislation

Current EU Legislation



■ Council Directive 98/58/EC

General minimum welfare requirements for the protection of farm animals

■ Council Directive 2001/88/EC

(amending Council Directive 91/630/EEC codified in Council Directive 2008/120/EC)

Specific minimum welfare requirements for the protection of pigs



Council Directive 2001/88/EC

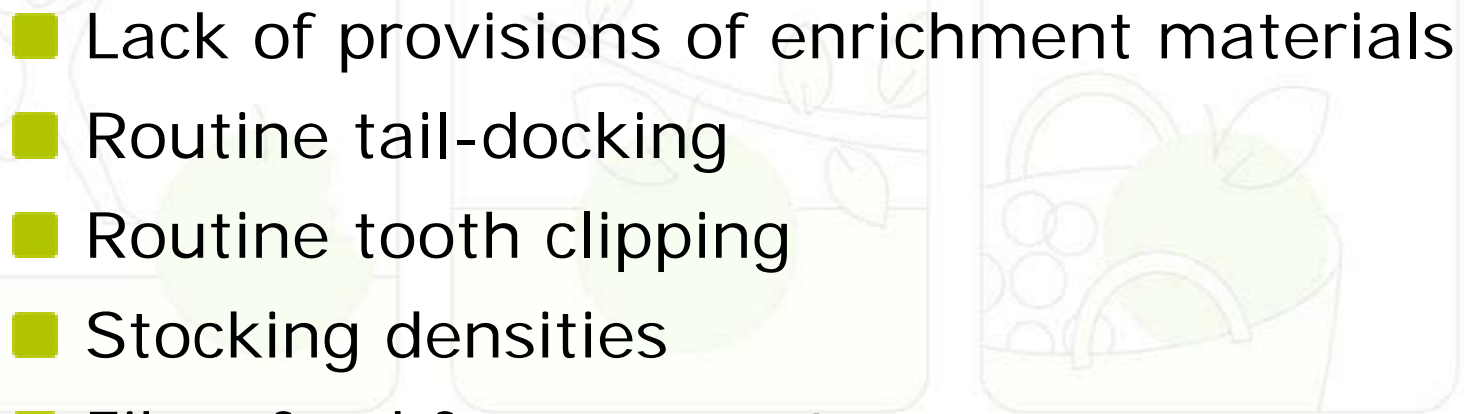
- Ban the use of individual stalls for pregnant sows and gilts during a period starting from 4 weeks after service to 1 week before the expected time of farrowing and the use of tethers,
- Improve the quality of the flooring surfaces,
- Increase the living space available for sows and gilts,
- Allow the sows and gilts to have permanent access to materials for rooting

From 1 January 2003 these requirements are applicable to all holdings newly built or rebuilt. From 1 January 2013 these provisions shall apply to all holdings.

Implementation of the current EU Legislation

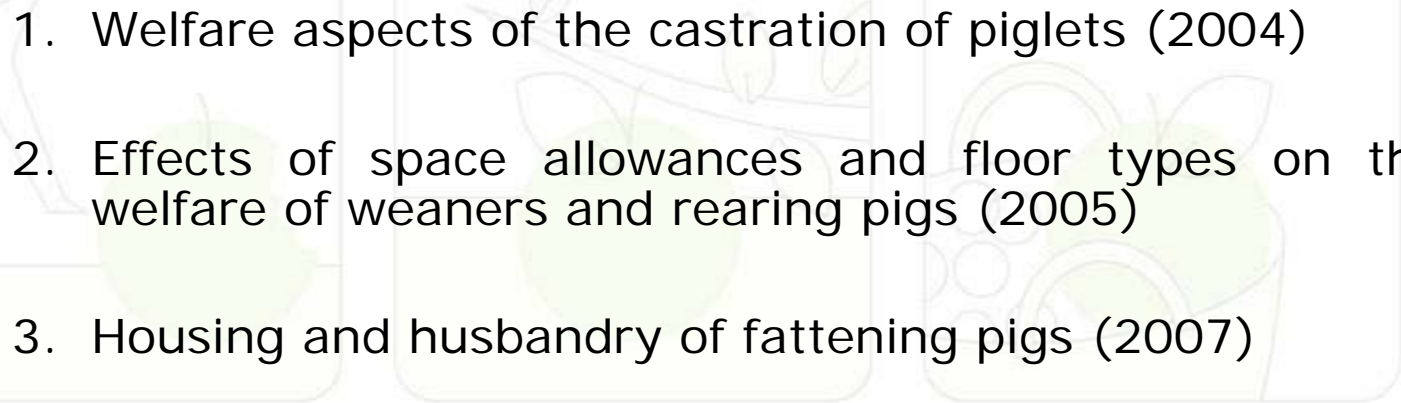
- Overall progress in MS to implement AW requirements for pigs (e.g. end of tethering of sows)
- However, the Commission Inspection Service of DG SANCO shows the lack of implementation of specific requirements

Implementation of the current EU legislation: main issues

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- Lack of provisions of enrichment materials
 - Routine tail-docking
 - Routine tooth clipping
 - Stocking densities
 - Fibre feed for pregnant sows
 - Group housing of sows (mandatory in all holdings from 1 January 2013)

EFSA Scientific Opinions

Scientific Opinions on pig welfare from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in Parma

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1. Welfare aspects of the castration of piglets (2004)
 2. Effects of space allowances and floor types on the welfare of weaners and rearing pigs (2005)
 3. Housing and husbandry of fattening pigs (2007)
 4. Housing and husbandry systems for adult breeding boars, pregnant, farrowing sows and unweaned piglets (2007)
 5. risks associated with tail biting in pigs and possible means to reduce the need for tail docking considering the different housing and husbandry systems (2007)

Scientific Research Projects funded by the Commission

- « **Welfare Quality-Science and society improving animal welfare in the food chain quality** ».
 - develops Animal Welfare Indicators which should contribute to a better assessment of the situation on farm
- Assessment protocol for pigs already available



Scientific Research Projects funded by the Commission

- **PIGCAS « Attitudes, practices and state of the art regarding piglet castration in Europe »**

Study funded by the European Parliament

- **Pilot study** to explore practical alternatives to **piglets castration** and ways to define EU quality criteria for meat originating from non-castrated pigs

Ongoing initiatives of the Commission

- Report from the Commission:
„Options for animal welfare labelling and the establishment of a European Network of Reference Centres for the protection and welfare of animals“
- Assessment of the need **to revise the general Directive on farm animals** as well as other specific legislation (pig directive)
 - General AW legislation supported by the latest scientific knowledge available
 - Based more on the consequences of the different raising systems on animals (Animal Welfare indicators) than on specific provisions on housing, feeding and management systems

Conclusion

Continuous work going on at the Commission in order to improve the welfare of pigs and to increase awareness on this issue among stakeholders and consumer

