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FINAL REPORT OF A MISSION  
CARRIED OUT IN ITALY  
FROM 18 TO 22 APRIL 2005  
CONCERNING ANIMAL WELFARE ON FARMS

*Please note that clarifications provided by the Italian Authorities are given as footnotes, in bold, italic type, to the relevant part of the report*



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*This report provides the outcome of a mission carried out by the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) in Italy between 18 and 22 April 2005.*

*The objective of the mission was to evaluate the measures taken to ensure that EU animal welfare requirements for pigs, calves and laying hens were respected. In particular, the actions taken to address recommendations made in the previous reports on this topic and to assess the steps taken to ensure compliance in the veal calf sector.*

*The report concludes that although there have been frequent delays in transposing the legislation, issuing guidelines and acting on recommendations from previous FVO reports, the central competent authority has continued to make improvements to the system of control. The effectiveness of the CAs in the different regions varies significantly. At regional and local level, there have been considerable delays with some of the administrative measures taken; however, at least in the regions visited, a higher priority has been given to animal welfare overall and in particular to better organise and execute a programme of inspections.*

*The report makes a number of recommendations addressed to the Italian competent authorities, aimed at rectifying the shortcomings identified.*

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The mission took place in Italy from 18 to 22 April 2005, as part of the planned mission programme of the Food and Veterinary office (FVO). An opening meeting was held with the central competent authority (CCA), the Ministry of Health, and with the regional competent authority of Lombardia on 18 April. At this meeting, the objectives of, and itinerary for, the mission were confirmed by the inspection team. The inspection team comprised two inspectors from the FVO, and was accompanied during the mission by representatives from the CA.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

Previous FVO missions to Italy concerning animal welfare on farms took place in 2001 and 2004<sup>1</sup>:

- Report 3385/2001 concluded that although checks had been carried out, not all EU requirements were adequately checked and, in general, there was a lack of adequate follow-up when infringements were detected. In response, the CCA wrote to the regional CAs, asking them to improve surveillance and to take enforcement action as necessary.
- Report 7010/2004, which primarily concerned laying hens, indicated a major non-compliance regarding the transposition of the requirements introduced by Directive 1999/74/EC. Despite letters from the Director General of DG SANCO, on the draft Italian legislation (24 July 2003) and then twice on the adopted legislation (March and April 2004), as well as recommendations in report 7010/2004, no changes were made to the Italian legislation. The CCA provided an action plan on 1 December 2004 to address the other recommendations in the report.

At the end of 2003, the issue of whether the CAs of Lombardia and Veneto had extended the deadline for the use of installations for the rearing of veal calves was raised by a Member of the European Parliament (MEP). Article 3 of Directive 91/629/EEC states that the duration of the use of such installations shall under no circumstances extend beyond 31 December 2003.

## **3. OBJECTIVES**

The objective of the mission was to evaluate the measures taken to ensure that EU animal welfare requirements for pigs, calves and laying hens were respected. In particular, the actions taken to address recommendations made in the previous reports on this topic and to assess the steps taken to ensure compliance in the veal calf sector.

In pursuit of this objective, the following meetings were held and sites visited:

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<sup>1</sup> Reports DG(SANCO)/3385/2001 and DG(SANCO)/7010/2004 (hereafter: reports 3385/2001 and 7010/2004), see [http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fvo/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fvo/index_en.htm),

VISITS			Comments
Competent authority	Central level	2	Opening and closing meetings. The report of infringements detected on pig, calf and laying hen farms for 2002-2003 throughout the national territory (Decision 2000/50) was included in the scope of the mission. Reports of CCA audits, carried out at the end of 2004 and the beginning of 2005, of the two regions visited and of three further regions, were also examined.
	Regional level	2	Contributions from the regions to the report on infringements detected (Decision 2000/50) were examined. Lombardia and Veneto were chosen for this mission as they had been specifically cited in the MEP questions regarding the alleged use of non-compliant systems for rearing veal calves.
	Local level	2	The inspection team examined: reports of inspections where infringements had been detected (Decision 2000/50) and subsequent actions taken in one office in each of the two regions.
Farms		4	In order to verify the procedures for inspections, the local inspector carried out an inspection of a calf (veal) farm and a pig farm in each region. The farms were selected by the inspection team.

#### 4. LEGAL BASIS FOR THE MISSION

The mission was carried out under the general provisions of Community legislation<sup>2</sup>, in particular Articles 9 of Directives 99/74/EC<sup>3</sup>, 91/630/EEC<sup>4</sup> and 91/629/EEC<sup>5</sup>, Article 7 of Council Directive 98/58/EC<sup>6</sup> and Commission Decision 98/139/EC<sup>7</sup>.

#### 5. MAIN FINDINGS

##### 5.1. Legislation

###### Laying hens

The legislation indicated in report 7010/2004 remains unchanged. Regarding the derogation in Italian legislation which provides an open deadline for the introduction of unenriched cages, which were ordered before 31 December 2002, a

<sup>2</sup> Legal acts quoted in this report refer, where applicable, to the last amended version.

<sup>3</sup> Council Directive 99/74/EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens: L 203, 3.3.99, p. 53, (hereafter: Directive 99/74/EC).

<sup>4</sup> Council Directive 91/630/EEC laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs, OJ L 340, 11.12.1991, p.33-38, (hereafter: Directive 91/630/EEC).

<sup>5</sup> Council Directive 91/629/EEC laying down minimum standards for the protection of calves, OJ L 340, 11.12.1991, p.28, (hereafter: Directive 91/629/EEC).

<sup>6</sup> Council Directive 98/58/EC concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes: L 221, 8.8.98, p. 23.

<sup>7</sup> Commission Decision 98/139/EC of 4 February 1998 laying down certain detailed rules concerning on-the-spot checks carried out in the veterinary field by Commission experts in the Member States OJ L 38 of 12.02.1998, p. 10.

note from the Director General of the CCA to the regions was sent on 26 April 2005 (i.e. two days after the completion of this current mission), indicating that producers should no longer avail of this derogation.

The CCA indicated that it is awaiting the outcome of the review provided for in Article 10 of Directive 1999/74/EC before proposing any changes to the Italian legislation. They also indicated that due to the controversy at EU level on the Italian text, an Inter-Ministerial Decree, which would facilitate better management of the implementation of these requirements, has not been adopted.

### Pigs

Although a comprehensive check of the Italian legislation transposing Directive 91/630/EEC was not carried out, it was noted that:

- The transposition of the amendments to this Directive (Directives 2001/88/EC and 2001/93/EC) was made more than fourteen months late. As a result, requirements which should have been applicable on holdings built after 1 January 2003 are only applicable for holdings built after the middle of March 2004.
- A ban on the tethering of sows and gilts is in force since 2001, which is ahead of the EU deadline of 1.1.2006.

### Calves

There have been no amendments to either EU or the corresponding Italian legislation since the previous report 3385/2001.

## **5.2. Competent Authority**

### Structure

The structure of the CA is described in the previous reports on this topic, in particular in report 3385/2001.

### Audits

The CCA has been developed an audit system to verify the regional activities in six different areas; one of which is animal welfare. Five regional CAs have been audited so far, three more are planned for the end of 2005 and all regions will be audited by the end of 2006. In carrying this out, the CCA is ahead of EU requirements for carrying out audits, which will be mandatory from 1.1.2007 (Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004<sup>8</sup>).

The regional CA in Lombardia has also independently set up a system for auditing the activities of the local level. Here the auditors are selected from the local level and once trained, carry out audits of local offices, other than the one in which they are based.

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<sup>8</sup> Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules (OJ L165 of 30.4.2004, p.1), hereafter Regulation 882/2004.

## Training and guidance

In response to the recommendations in report 3385/2001, the CCA issued a note providing a basic framework for inspections in November 2001. A further note in September 2002 asked the regional CAs to improve surveillance of the care of sick and/or injured animals, environmental enrichment, the necessity for tail docking pigs, back-up and alarm for ventilation systems and fibrous food for calves.

Training is provided by the regional level. In Lombardia, priority had been given to ensuring uniformity of the activities of the local CA through audits and training initiatives. In Veneto, guidance for inspectors is available on the regional CA's Internet site. Both CAs are also collaborating with investigations undertaken by university departments on issues such as bulky feed for sows at the University of Milan and roughage for calves at the University of Padova.

In each local office of the CA in both Lombardia and Veneto, there is a contact person for animal welfare issues. Expertise is therefore developed on animal welfare issues at local level and this arrangement also allows better channelling of information to and from the regional level.

### **5.3. Information to the various livestock sectors**

Notes from the CCA to the regions are also sent to industry groups. Industry groups also participate in a national technical commission for the protection of animals for breeding<sup>9</sup>. Information on current or forthcoming legislation is provided at the meetings of this commission.

Regarding the setting up of structured training courses for stock persons as required by Article 5a of 609/630/EC, both regional CAs are currently consulting the pig producers' associations on this issue, but appropriate courses have not yet been organised<sup>10</sup>.

In Veneto, the "Veneto Agricoltura", a regional executive body organises seminars and training, some of which were given by officials from the region's veterinary services. In both regions, as many holdings are run under contract with the animals owned by a company, communications following inspections are frequently to both keepers and owners.

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<sup>9</sup> This national commission was created following ratification of the European Convention on the protection of animals on farms, which was adopted in Strasbourg on 10/03/1976, see [www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)

<sup>10</sup> *In their comments on a draft version of this report, the Italian CA indicated that in its note of 2 March 2005, they requested the regions and autonomous provinces which have not yet done so to promote training courses for operators in the sector.*

#### **5.4. Inspection programmes**

In the note from the CCA of November 2001 the regions were asked, where possible, to check all farms every year. The national report indicated that 21% of pig holdings, 26% of calf holdings and 82% of holdings with laying hens were checked in the period 2002-2003. From the CCA audits carried out, there were no inspection programmes in place in the regions of Puglia and Campania.

Initially in both regions visited, setting of targets for inspections was left to District level; however, following assessment of resources available, and discussions with the local level, inspection programmes are as follows:

- In Lombardia, in the first year of the 2005/2006 programme, 130 pig farms, 80 calf farms and 33 holdings with laying hens are scheduled.
- In Veneto in 2005, 50% of pig farms, 100% of laying hen holdings and the number of calf farms, including systems of rearing other than veal production, determined by the size of the sector in each district.

In both regions visited, when the unit normally responsible for animal welfare issues had insufficient resources to carry out the required inspections, the unit primarily concerned with animal health issues carried out this task.

#### **5.5. Calves**

The main issue in relation to calves was that, despite earlier notes from both the CCA and the regional CA on the importance of respecting the deadline of 31 December 2003, both regions had accepted that, where calves had been introduced prior to this deadline, the use of deficient installations could continue until the cycle had been completed. This does not comply with Article 3 of Directive 91/629/EEC. In any case, following the expiry of the extended deadline, the enforcement action taken differed between the two regions:

- In Veneto, checks were carried out and sanctions were initiated in 17 cases. One of these files indicated that a fine of € 1,549 had been imposed.
- In Lombardia, reports by the local CA visited indicated that 10% of such farms had deficient installations at the end of 2004. In all three cases examined by the inspection team, a letter from the CA advising the farmer of the appropriate standards had been sent on 14.4.2005 (the week before this mission), even though the deficiencies had been detected in October 2004.

The farms visited had been recently refurbished and both had been categorised as fully in compliance. Nevertheless, the veterinarian in Veneto had to advise that pen structures would have to be adjusted to avoid overstocking and in Lombardia, although the conditions were currently adequate, the veterinarian advised that measures were necessary to avoid overstocking in the later fattening phase.

The second issue in relation to calves concerned insufficient CCA guidance. Both regions had independently prepared further guidance, with the result that there were different interpretations of issues such as what is considered fibrous food for calves (point 11 of Directive 91/629/EEC)<sup>11</sup>:

- In Lombardia, pelleted feed with 17.5% fibre was considered sufficient.
- In Veneto, the regional level did not consider whole maize or barley as sufficiently fibrous and were further investigating the possibilities, through both a university project and by advising farmers, through the local CA, that they should consider more fibrous foodstuffs.

The lack of guidance may also have contributed to certain requirements being overlooked. In Veneto, although the lack of an alarm for the ventilation system was identified during the visit with the inspection team, this had not been noted in the previous year's inspection. The veterinarian correctly indicated that bedding should be provided for an injured calf which had been isolated and was unable to stand; however, it was the inspection team who pointed out that all calves less than two weeks of age should be provided with appropriate bedding (point 10 of the Annex of Directive 91/629), that calves more than two weeks of age should be provided with fibrous food from their arrival (point 11 of the Annex of Directive 91/629) and that water should be available at all times during hot conditions (point 13 of the Annex of Directive 91/629).

## **5.6. Pigs**

The inspection team identified four issues concerning pigs. Firstly, the effect of the legislation being late was that requirements, such as the width of the openings in the floor (Article 3, 2b of 91/630/EEC) were not applicable on farms brought into use in 2003. Although according to Directive 91/630/EEC all such requirements should have applied, the corresponding Italian legislation only applies on farms brought into use from the middle of March 2004.

Secondly, CCA guidance of 2 March 2005 was more than two years after the date when the Directive 91/630/EEC entered into force. As a result there has been limited progress in achieving compliance with requirements such as:

- Materials for manipulation. These were limited on both farms visited. In Lombardia, it was concluded that it was not possible to achieve provision of such materials due to the risk of blocking the drainage system. However, on the farm in Veneto, large pieces of wood had been provided, at least in pens where there was a suspicion of tail-biting, and this material did not present a risk of blocking the drainage system.

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<sup>11</sup> *In their comments on a draft version of this report, the Italian CA indicated that as EU legislation gives no indication of the type of fibrous feed to be used or the percentage of crude fibre which feed should contain, this gives rise to differences in interpretation.*

- The provision of water at all times. CCA audits indicated that this requirement is commonly not met. There has been insufficient attention given to this issue during previous inspections. On one of the farms visited, this deficiency had not been recorded the previous year and after the current inspection, the permanent provision of water was only initially requested for pens in which there were sick pigs.

The third issue concerns the new CCA guidance. Although this provides a better framework for carrying out inspections it is insufficient on issues such as:

- The measurement of “unobstructed” floor space. Insufficient interpretation of the practical implementation of legal provisions contributes to erroneous assessments. During one of the visits it was concluded that certain pens were satisfactory; whereas, when the area occupied by the feeding troughs was excluded, these pens were in fact overstocked.
- The assessment of light intensity. The guidance proposes that a well-lit road at night as equivalent level to the minimum 40 lux required; however, no objective way of assessing the minimum level of illumination is proposed. As a result, it was the inspection team who pointed out, during the visits, when this requirement was not fulfilled.
- The requirement for bedding for pens accommodating sick pigs (point 4 of the Annex to Directive 98/58/EC). During one of the visits, the veterinarian did not require this although it would have been appropriate to do so.

Finally, although previous notes from the CCA dealt with these, the following issues were still overlooked:

- The provision of an alarm for automatic ventilation systems. In relation to the farm visited in Veneto, the lack of an alarm had not been recorded in the report of the previous year’s inspection.
- A daily record of the number of mortalities was not available (point 5 of the Annex to Directive 98/58/EC) on either farm.
- The obligation to impose sanctions where deficiencies were detected. Although reports generally indicated that overstocking had been corrected at a follow-up visit, it was a recurring problem. On both farms visited, pens were either overstocked or there was a high risk of this in the near future and the veterinarians had to instruct the farmers to take corrective actions and to schedule a follow-up visit<sup>12</sup>.

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<sup>12</sup> *In their comments on a draft version of this report, the Italian CA indicated that an increased administrative fine for overstocking was issued following a subsequent check of the holding in Veneto region.*

## 5.7. Laying hens

The inspection team identified three issues regarding laying hens. Firstly, a centralised register of holdings has not been completed. In response to a recommendation in report 7010/2004, the CCA indicated that the registration of holdings had been completed and that a centralised register was planned and that this will be provided for by an Inter-Ministerial Decree. Such a system would enable the CCA to trace the origin of eggs more rapidly when a request is made by another Member State.; however, the Decree has not been adopted and the regions of Piemonte, Puglia, Campania, Abruzzo and the province of Trento have not provided the information requested by the CCA.

Secondly, the CCA has not yet provided guidelines for inspections. This was one of the undertakings given following mission 7010/2004. Consequently:

- In Lombardia, throughout 2004, checklists with the old space allowance continued to be used. One letter to a farmer informed him of the need to provide 450cm<sup>2</sup> of cage area and 10 cm of feeding space for each hen. Although the requirement for feeding space remains unchanged, both EU and Italian legislation now require 550cm<sup>2</sup> of cage area per hen.
- From the audits carried out by the CCA themselves, it was also noted that, due to the checklists in use, stocking density was not correctly verified in Puglia and Campania.
- Although the CCA agreed with the inspection team that forced moulting does not comply with EU requirements, there was acceptance of the practice by certain regional CAs. This procedure, although it varies in severity, often results in a doubling of mortality rates. In Veneto, the inspection team saw one such programme for lighter weight hens. On the first day, light is kept on for 18 to 20 hours. Although water is not withdrawn, the feed is changed to a low energy and protein ration. Stressing the birds so that physiological changes bring about a prolongation of egg laying does not entail an appropriate feeding regime to maintain the birds in good health (point 14 of the Annex of Directive 98/58/EC), or an adequate period of darkness (point 3 of the Annex of Directive 99/74/EC). The CCA's own audits had identified forced moulting as quite a widespread practice.

Thirdly, in the two regions visited, different actions were taken following the detection of overstocking:

- In Lombardia, 25% overstocking was classified as “sufficiently satisfactory” by an auditor of the local CA.
- In Veneto, data provided for other purposes had been used by the local CA to target holdings for an animal welfare investigation. In the two cases examined, one investigation had resulted in a fine of €3,100. In the other, the case had not been finalised due to an appeal against the fine imposed.

## **5.8. Reporting**

Three issues were identified by the inspection team. Firstly, in November 2001 the CCA provided a format for reporting with seven additional categories to those laid down by Decision 2000/50. These are sub-categories of the nine in Decision 2000/50; however, infringements which were recorded against these additional categories were not included in the report to the Commission, with the result that the number and nature of the infringements was under-reported.

Secondly, the CCA provided little guidance and consequently the regions differ significantly on what they included:

- Lombardia reported all cases where a corrective order had been given;
- Veneto only reported cases where actual sanctions have been imposed. As a result the report from Veneto indicates no infringements on the 670 pig farms inspected in 2004.

The guidance from the CCA of 2 March 2005 on inspections of pig farms goes some way to address these first two issues. Although the format has been improved it still contains several additional categories. Any infringements included in these categories will have to be re-distributed into the nine laid down in Decision 2000/50 if under-reporting is to be avoided in future reports to the Commission. On the second issue, it indicates that any orders for corrective actions (*prescrizione*) should be reported.

The third issue concerns the failure of certain regions to provide the results of their inspections. In response to a recommendation on this subject in report 7010/2004, the CCA indicated that they had submitted the results of inspections for 2002-2003 to the Commission. However, CCA audits indicated that the collection of data was insufficient in Puglia and Campania; the regions where there was also no structured inspection programme in place, and in five other regions: Val D'Aosta, Liguria, Sicilia, Calabria and Abruzzo no results of inspections had been provided.

## **6. CONCLUSIONS**

### **6.1. Legislation**

- 1) The legislation concerning laying hens, as indicated in the previous report 7010/2004, remains unchanged, as the CCA is awaiting a possible revision of the EU text before submitting any proposal to amend the national provisions.
- 2) Due to the late transposition of Directive 91/630/EEC, buildings accommodating pigs which were brought into service between 1 January 2003 and Mid March 2.2004, do not meet all the requirements of EU legislation.
- 3) The date established for phasing out systems for tethering sows is ahead of the EU deadline.

## **6.2. Competent Authority**

- 1) The CCA is ahead of EU requirements for carrying out audits, which will be mandatory from 1.1.2007 (Regulation 882/2004).
- 2) The involvement of the CAs in studies such as the feeding requirements for sows in Lombardia and for calves in Veneto, demonstrates a commitment to achieving better compliance on such issues.
- 3) In those regions where a network of contact persons at local level has been established, a wider base of expertise has been developed. This should serve as an example of best practice for all CAs throughout Italy, especially since CCA audits in particular have indicated that there is a wide variation in the delivery of animal welfare related tasks.

## **6.3. Information to the livestock sectors**

- 1) Although there have been meetings and communications between the various sectors and all levels of the CA, appropriate training courses have not yet been organised for pig stockpersons as required by Article 5a of 91/630/EC.

## **6.4. Inspection programmes**

- 1) The steps taken in both Lombardia and Veneto in drawing up their inspection programmes should ensure that the inspections carried out are more focused on animal welfare requirements than was previously the case and targets are more attainable.
- 2) The use of other resources to ensure checks are carried out represents a commitment to delivering scheduled animal welfare tasks.
- 3) The lack of a regional inspection programme in certain regions, such as in Campania and Puglia, means that the CAs there are not co-ordinating the requirement to inspect a statistically representative sample of holdings each year (Article 7 of Directives 91/629/EEC and 91/630/EEC and Article 8 of Directive 1999/74).

## **6.5. Calves**

- 1) In both Lombardia and Veneto the phasing out of old systems of veal production was not timely. Albeit with their extended deadline, subsequent actions in Veneto were sufficient to ensure that this was achieved; however, the actions in Lombardia were not sufficient in this regard.
- 2) Insufficient CCA guidance for carrying out inspections has resulted in certain requirements being overlooked.

## **6.6. Pigs**

- 1) Due to the delay in providing CCA guidance, which was provided more than two years after the date of entry into force of 91/630/EEC, there has been limited progress in achieving compliance with requirements such as materials for manipulation and permanent access to water for pigs.

- 2) Although this guidance provides a better framework for carrying out inspections, it is insufficiently practical on certain issues, such as the measurement of space allowances and light intensity.
- 3) Certain issues which the CCA has previously emphasised, such as the provision of an alarm for ventilation systems and the obligation to impose sanctions for recurring problems such as overstocking are still being overlooked. Given that such findings are widespread, it can be concluded that follow-up visits alone are insufficient to convince farmers that they should respect the requirements in the first place.

### **6.7. Laying hens**

- 1) Although registration of holdings has been completed at regional level, the CCA has been unable to deliver its commitment to create a centralised register partly due to certain regions not providing the information requested and partly due to a proposed Inter-Ministerial Decree not being adopted<sup>13</sup>. If such information is provided, without being regularly updated, it would be limited in its usefulness for the purpose of tracing eggs (Article 1, 3 of Directive 2002/4).
- 2) Unrevised CCA guidance has resulted in certain old requirements, such as for space allowance, being applied long after the date the new requirements entered into force. Insufficient guidance also resulted in practices, such as forced moulting, which the CCA agrees does not comply with EU requirements, being tolerated in many regions.
- 3) When overstocking is detected, enforcement actions vary. Sufficiently dissuasive measures were taken in Veneto; however, in Lombardia sanctions were not imposed for overstocking.

### **6.8. Reporting**

- 1) Under-reporting to the Commission on the number and nature of infringements has arisen due to the incoherent format and inadequate instructions provided by the CCA for this task. The CCA have started to deal with the issue of regional differences on what is included, through their recent instruction on pigs. However, the format provided, although improved, has still additional categories to those laid down in Decision 2000/50 and a certain amount of re-classification will be needed if under-reporting is to be avoided in future.
- 2) The failure of Val D'Aosta, Liguria, Sicilia, Calabria and Abruzzo to provide any results of inspections and the insufficient collection of data in Puglia and Campania means that the CCA is not aware of the results of inspections in more than a third of all regions in Italy.

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<sup>13</sup> *In their comments on a draft version of this report, the Italian CA indicated that this Decree has been published and will be used to urge more forcefully those regions which have not yet provided the required information.*

## **6.9. Overall conclusion**

Although there have been frequent delays in transposing the legislation, issuing guidelines and acting on recommendations from previous FVO reports, the central competent authority has continued to make improvements to the system of control. The effectiveness of the CAs in the different regions varies significantly. At regional and local level, there have been considerable delays with some of the administrative measures taken; however, at least in the regions visited, a higher priority has been given to animal welfare overall and in particular to better organise and execute a programme of inspections

## **7. CLOSING MEETING**

A closing meeting was held on 22 April 2005 with representatives of the CCA. At this meeting, the main findings and conclusions of the mission were presented by the inspection team and certain additional information was requested. The CCA undertook to obtain this information and did so in time for the preparation of the draft report. The CCA also indicated that the issues raised would be used to enhance the system of control and pointed out that commitments given following mission 7010/2004 had not yet been fully implemented as procedures in relation to this report had only been completed at the end of 2004 and several actions foreseen remained to be put into practice.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES**

The Competent Authorities are requested to present a plan of actions to address the following recommendations. This should include a timetable for the completion of these actions and should be done within 25 working days of receipt of the final mission report.

- (1) Amend legislation on laying hens, as recommended in report 7010/2004, to comply with Directive 1999/74/EC.
- (2) Take steps to ensure that each region checks a representative sample of holdings in all sectors each year (Article 7 Directives 91/629/EEC and 91/630/EEC and Article 8 Directive 1999/74).
- (3) In relation to calves, take measures to ensure:
  - (a) That when deficiencies are found, in particular the continued use of old installations (Directive 91/629/EEC, Article 3, 4), sufficient dissuasive measures are taken.
  - (b) That inspectors do not overlook requirements such as: appropriate bedding for calves less than two weeks of age (point 10 of the Annex of Directive 91/629); water at all times during hot conditions (point 13 of the Annex of Directive 91/629), an alarm to indicate failure of the ventilation system (Directive 98/58/EC, Annex, point 13) and fibrous food for calves of more than two weeks of age (point 11 of the Annex of Directive 91/629).
  - (c) That the results of investigations on the suitability of different fibrous foods (point 11 of the Annex of Directive 91/629) are effectively communicated to all levels of the CA.

- (4) In relation to pigs, take steps to ensure:
- (a) That appropriate training courses are available to pig farmers (Article 5a of Directive 61/630/EEC).
  - (b) That there are adequate practical guidance for inspectors to assess issues such as the measurement of space allowances and light intensity (Directive 61/630/EEC Article 3, 1 and Annex, Chapter I, point 2).
  - (c) That there is better dissemination of information on the ways already found of providing materials for manipulation (Directive 61/630/EEC Annex, Chapter I, point 4) and of the outcome of investigations into the provision of bulky food for pregnant sows (Directive 91/630, Article 3, 7).
  - (d) That inspectors do not overlook the requirement to provide water at all times (Directive 61/630/EEC Annex, Chapter I, point 7), particularly in wet feeding systems, as well as requirements from Directive 98/58/EC such as: bedding for sick pigs; a daily record of the number of mortalities found to each inspection and an alarm to indicate failure of the ventilation system (Directive 98/58/EC, Annex, points 4, 5 and 13).
  - (e) That for recurring problems such as overstocking (Directive 61/630/EEC Article 3, 1), dissuasive measures are taken.
- (5) In relation to laying hens, take steps to ensure:
- (a) The completion of the central register for the purpose of tracing eggs (Article 1, 3 of Directive 2002/4), as proposed in response to the recommendations in report 7010/2004.
  - (b) Inappropriate checklists are taken out of use and the appropriate space requirements are applied (Directive 99/74/EC, Chapter II, Art. 5, 1).
  - (c) The practice of forced moulting is not tolerated (Article 3 and point 3 of the Annex of Council Directive 99/74/EC; point 14 of the Annex of Council Directive 98/58/EC).
  - (d) That recurring problems, such as overstocking, are promptly corrected and dissuasive measures are applied in a consistent way in the different regions.
- (6) In relation to the reporting of infringements (Decision 2000/50/EC) take steps to ensure:
- (a) That the results for all three sectors are suitably classified according to the nine categories laid down in Decision 2000/50/EC.
  - (b) That all regional CAs include actions of an “advisory” nature as well as sanctions imposed.

- (c) That all regions contribute to the overview provided.
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**9. ADDENDUM TO MISSION REPORT DG(SANCO)/7636/2005**

In their comments on a draft version of this report, the central competent authority indicated the following initial reaction to the recommendations.

- (1) In relation to recommendation 1, they will draw up a text to amend the legislation on laying hens for assessment by its legislative unit and possible referral to the political authorities for a decision.
- (2) A working party (made up of delegates from the most representative regions in terms of livestock holdings and experts from the National Reference Centre for animal welfare in Brescia):
  - (a) Is preparing a document which will form the basis for planning monitoring activities as indicated in recommendation 2; such planning is expected to be operational from 2006.
  - (b) Is preparing an explanatory note which will address recommendations 3(b) and (c).
  - (c) Will next draw up guidelines for inspections of holdings with laying hens and in particular cover the practice of forced moulting indicated in 5 (c).
- (3) In relation to recommendation 4 (a), those regions and autonomous provinces which had not yet done so to promote training courses for operators in the pig sector had been recently requested to do so.
- (4) In relation to recommendation 4 (b), that recent guidance includes a benchmark for assessing light intensity and indicates that measurements of floor space must be that accessible and available to each pig.
- (5) In relation to recommendation 5 (a) A Decree of 4 May 2005 stipulates that the regions and autonomous provinces must send updated lists to the CCA each year and communicate any withdrawals and suspensions in a timely fashion.
- (6) In relation to recommendation 6, that in order to prevent any future under reporting, the CCA will include all infringements discovered for the nine categories laid down and provide an explanatory note in the report forwarded to the Commission.