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FINAL REPORT OF A MISSION
CARRIED OUT IN POLAND
FROM 27 JUNE TO 1 JULY 2005
CONCERNING ANIMAL WELFARE ON FARMS

Please note that comments provided by the Polish Authorities are given as an addendum at the end of the report.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides the outcome of a mission carried out by the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) in Poland between 27 June and 1 July 2005.

The main objective of the mission was to verify the application of EU animal welfare legislation applicable to pig and hen farms. A secondary objective was to follow up on commitments given following a pre-Accession mission on animal welfare. In order to achieve these objectives, relevant legal and administrative measures were evaluated.

The report concludes that although legal gaps were identified in relation to bedding for sick or injured animals and mortality records, the application in Polish legislation in relation to training of stock keepers, the ban on tethering of sows, and the provision of perches for laying hens, is in advance of EU deadlines.

The Central Competent Authority (CCA) has delivered on commitments given in response to a pre-Accession mission in 2004, in relation to amending legislation and developing the system for farm inspections. However, information provided to and the inspections carried out on the pig sector were variable in quality and the inspections of laying hens in cages were inadequate.

Sufficient guidance and training has not yet been provided and, as the higher levels of the CA were unaware of major inadequacies regarding inspections of laying hens, supervision has not been sufficient. When deficiencies are detected by district level follow-up action is initiated, but procedures through the courts are often not effective in motivating inspectors and discouraging infringements.

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

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1. INTRODUCTION

The mission took place in Poland from 27 June to 1 July 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 General Veterinary Inspectorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on 27 June. At this meeting, the objectives of, and itinerary for, the mission were confirmed by the inspection team and additional information required for the satisfactory completion of the mission requested. The inspection team comprised three inspectors from the FVO, and was accompanied throughout the mission by a representative from the CCA.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION

The main objective of the mission was to verify the implementation of EU animal welfare legislation applicable to pig and laying hen farms. A secondary objective was to follow up on commitments given following a pre-Accession mission on animal welfare.

In pursuit of these objectives, the following meetings were held and sites visited:

VISITS			Comments
Competent authority	Central level	2	Opening and final meetings.
	Regional level	2	Meetings with the CA in Wielkopolskie and Zachodniopomorsky, where the organisation of the checks and follow up actions were discussed.
	Local level	2	In one district office in each of the two regions, reports of inspections where infringements had been detected and the subsequent actions taken, were reviewed.
Farms		4	In order to verify the procedures for inspections, the local inspector carried out an inspection of a laying hen farm and a pig farm in each region. The farms were selected by the inspection team from a list of farms in the districts visited.

3. BACKGROUND

This was the first FVO mission concerning animal welfare since the Accession of Poland to the EU. Prior to Accession, the FVO carried out a mission in 2004 in the framework of Accession preparations, in order to assist and monitor progress with the adoption of EU requirements on animal welfare. In response to this mission the Poland CA provided a number of assurances related to animal welfare, in the form of an action plan.

In relation to laying hens, the Accession Treaty for Poland grants 44 farms a derogation from the minimum requirements for height and floor slope of cages until 31 December 2009.

4. LEGAL BASIS FOR THE MISSION

The mission was carried out under the general provisions of Community legislation¹, in particular Articles 9 of Council Directives 99/74/EC² and 91/630/EEC³, Article 7 of Council Directive 98/58/EC⁴ and Commission Decision 98/139/EC⁵.

5. MAIN FINDINGS

5.1. Legislation

Following the mission prior to Accession, the CCA indicated that amendments to legislation would be made so that Council Directive 93/119/EC⁶ concerning welfare at slaughter and Directive 99/74/EC on the welfare of laying hens, are fully transposed.

A comprehensive review of national legislation was not carried out; however, in relation to the commitments given prior to Accession to amend legislation:

- The CCA stated that a Regulation of 9 September 2004 together with the Animal Welfare Act fully transposes Directive 93/119/EC.
- The requirements of Directive 99/74/EC are transposed by the Articles of the regulation on the minimal conditions of keeping farm animals and one of the annexes to this regulation. Different requirements are provided for cages operating prior to the date of its entry into force; those coming into use between the date of entry into force and Accession and those post Accession.

In general, Polish animal welfare legislation provides for criminal sanctions, which, by their nature, can only be obtained through the courts. A representative from the CCA indicated that most animal welfare cases did not get a high priority from prosecution officials as such cases were usually deemed to have a low social impact and, as a result, the district level spends a lot of time on the necessary procedures without achieving any punitive effect to discourage further infringements. Representatives from the CCA also stated that as many local inspectors had given up initiating such procedures, the CCA were examining the possibility of introducing administrative sanctions.

¹ Legal acts quoted in this report refer, where applicable, to the last amended version.

² Council Directive 99/74/EC of 19 July 1999 laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens, OJ L 203, 3.3.99, p. 53, (hereafter: Directive 99/74/EC).

³ Council Directive 91/630/EEC of 19 November 1991 laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs, OJ L 340, 11.12.1991, p.33-38, (hereafter: Directive 91/630/EEC).

⁴ Council Directive 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes, OJ L 221, 8.8.98, p. 23, (hereafter: Directive 98/58/EC).

⁵ 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.

⁶ Council Directive 93/119/EC of 22 December 1993 on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing, OJ L 340, 31.12.1993, p.21, (hereafter: directive 93/119/EC).

The following legal points were relevant to issues dealt with during this mission concerning the welfare of pigs:

- Training of stock keepers (Directive 91/630/EEC, Article 5a) is already established in the Animal Welfare Act of 1997.
- The tethering of sows has been prohibited in advance of the EU deadline of 1.1.2006 (Directive 91/630/EEC Article 3 point 3).
- Group housing of sows is required on all pig holdings. This goes beyond EU requirements; however, for farms which were already in existence there are no space requirements until 1.1.2013, which complies with Article 3 point 1 of Directive 91/630/EEC.
- The requirement to provide sick or injured animals with dry comfortable bedding, where appropriate (Annex to Directive 98/58/EC, point 4), is not transposed. On a farm visited, the provision of bedding for a recumbent pig could therefore not be imposed.
- Although there is a requirement for documentation relating to mortalities, there is no requirement to maintain a record of the number of mortalities found at each inspection (Annex to Directive 98/58/EC, point 5). The requirements of Directive 98/58/EC has been transposed both through an Act, which is difficult to amend as it requires approval from Parliament, and also through secondary legislation.

The following legal issues regarding laying hens were identified:

- Although EU Regulations are directly applicable, no national legislation gives a reference to Regulations on the marketing of eggs⁷, which the CCA stated needs to be done before the requirements can be implemented. On one farm visited the farming method was not indicated on egg cartons and, on the other farm, neither the farming method nor the packing station number. Both farming method and packing station number should be indicated (Regulation (EC) No. 1907/90, Article 10).
- The CCA decided to put the transposition of Council Directive 2002/4/EC⁸ together with the implementation of the Regulations on the marketing of eggs and, as these regulations were not implemented, Directive 2002/4/EC had not been transposed. Farms were registered at district level, but all the information required was not included (Annex to Directive 2002/4/EC, point 1).
- There is a requirement for perches in all alternative systems, which is in advance of the EU deadline of 1.1.2007 (Directive 99/74/EC, Article 4 (d)).

⁷ Commission Regulation (EC) No 2295/2003 of 23 December 2003 introducing detailed rules for implementing Council Regulation (EEC) No 1907/90 on certain marketing standards for eggs (OJ L 340, 24.12.2003. p.16), referred to as “Regulations on the marketing of eggs” throughout the report.

⁸ Commission Directive 2002/4/EC of 30 January 2002 on the registration of establishments keeping laying hens, covered by Directive 1999/74/EC OJ L 30, 31.1.2002, p.44, (hereafter: Directive 2002/4/EC).

5.2. Competent Authority

Structure and responsibilities

The General Veterinary Inspectorate, which is within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, is responsible for animal welfare issues. Within the General Veterinary Inspectorate, a section of the Animal Health and Welfare Office deals with animal welfare issues, where one veterinarian, who also deals with rabies eradication, is responsible for animal welfare on farms, during transport and at slaughter. Tasks at central level include the development of the system of inspection and the co-ordination of reporting, in addition to dealing with ministerial requests and international commitments.

There are 16 Regional and 304 District Veterinary Inspectorates. Although not dealing solely with issues of animal welfare, one official acts as a contact point for these issues in each regional CA. Following training of representatives from the regional level, the regional CA subsequently provided training for 523 inspectors at district level. The regional CA is responsible for supervising the activities performed by the districts. Since the end of 2004, the CA in Wielkopolskie had carried out five such supervisory visits. Although there were areas of non-compliance detected for issues other than animal welfare, none had been found in relation to farm animal welfare inspections.

Inspection programme

In relation to the implementation of inspections, it was noted that

- The CCA has provided instructions and has held meetings with regional CAs to discuss implementation.
- Animal welfare is included as an integrated check along with animal identification and registration, hygiene and medicine use. Checklists included general questions which are common to all farm species and specific sections for each species and legal references are indicated.
- A previous annual target of 10% of farms in the whole country was not achieved and following a recent meeting with the regions, where account was taken of available resources, and an instruction from the Chief Veterinary Officer of 31 May 2005 reduced this target to 5%. The revised instruction also provides clarifications on changes to the legislation and makes suggestions for selecting holdings: the size of the holding, changes in the number of animals or of the owner and results of the previous inspection.

Further information, including instructions and guidelines for inspection are available on the CCA website: <http://www.wetgiw.gov.pl/>

5.3. Support available to the pig and laying hen sectors

Training for pig stockpersons

In both regions visited, the CA, in cooperation with the regional agricultural advisory centres, provides training courses for farmers. In Zachodniopomorskie, staff from the University of Szczecin and the inspectors from the regional CA collaborate to provide such courses; however, training foreseen for June 2005 was not held due to the low number of applications.

Up-grading of establishments

Within the framework of the “Plan of Rural Development 2004-2006” there are financial mechanisms to support achieving compliance with EU requirements on animal welfare, through:

- Agri-environmental schemes, although these have tended to be more for environmental purposes and more related to the dairy sector;
- Schemes for up-grading agricultural holdings. To date, five holdings with laying hens, out of the 44 with a transitional period, have applied for funding through this scheme.

Irrespective of funding, representatives of the CCA and district CA indicated that local planning authorities also consult the district CA and therefore animal welfare requirements were fully considered in the approval process prior to the construction of new buildings.

Publications for pig farmers

Following the pre-Accession mission, the CCA indicated that a recommendation had been made to the district CA to develop cooperation with Agricultural Information Centres in order to disseminate information on EU requirements concerning welfare of pigs. The FVO team noted that:

- An available booklet dealt with all aspects of pig husbandry and had been prepared prior to Accession in collaboration with experts from certain other MSs. This indicated that evidence is needed to justify carrying out teeth clipping; however tail-docking was mentioned as a routine procedure, whereas other measures should be tried before this is carried out (Annex to Directive 91/630/EEC, Chapter I (8)). Neither group housing of dry sows, nor types of bulky feeding for this category of animal were included.
- The subject of environmental enrichment for pigs featured in several articles in specialist magazines; however, tyres were included in the list of possible solutions, although these might compromise the health of the animals which would not meet the requirements of Chapter I (4) of the Annex to Directive 91/630/EEC.

5.4. Pigs

Comprehensive checklists, but little detailed information, had been provided by the CCA to guide inspectors on the various points to be checked.

- No clarification had been given as to what constituted bulky feed for pregnant sows and the formulation of this ration was not investigated by the veterinarians during the visits.
- There was a lack of guidance on the methods of castration, which were not considered by the inspecting veterinarians. On one farm, forceps were placed on the cord before incising, thereby minimising any tearing, which is acceptable, whereas on the other farm the method involved pulling the vessels, which infringes requirements of Directive 91/630/EEC (3rd indent, point 8, Chapter I of the annex).
- Although there were suggestions in some publications on possible materials for manipulation, the absence of such material for certain categories of pigs

was overlooked on the first farm visited, and on the second farm, where different materials were present in different buildings, the veterinarian indicated that salt licks were preferable to covered metal chains, after prompting by the FVO team.

The detection of deficiencies was better in the district visited in Zachodniopomorskie than in Wielkopolski.

- Out of six farms inspected in the last year in the district in Zachodniopomorskie, infringements were detected on three. On the farm visited, most deficiencies had been corrected within the deadline set; the provision of a permanent access to fresh water for certain categories of pigs remained to be solved.
- Out of 88 inspections in the last year in the district in Wielkopolski, no infringements had been detected; however, in the farm visited in this district, the FVO team indicated four deficiencies which had gone undetected by the CA (lack of an alarm for the ventilation system, lack of material for manipulation for certain categories of pigs, failure to record the identity of pigs receiving medication and mortalities to each inspection).
- The CA in Zachodniopomorskie provided equipment to measure waste gases and light intensity, whereas in Wielkopolski they did not. A representative of the CCA indicated that several regions were not checking these requirements due to an inadequate budget to purchase equipment.

Once deficiencies were identified follow-up actions were taken:

- Severe breakdown of animal welfare standards on smaller farms, which had been reported by an NGO, had been adequately dealt with and involved other local authorities to seize animals and the courts for prosecution.
- Group housing of sows, although present on both farms visited, was the subject of a sanctioning procedure in one of the districts visited. According to a representative of the regional CA, group housing is not respected on many of the larger units. The sanction procedure, which involved several opportunities for appeal, although efficiently handled by the CA, entailed a substantial administrative burden, with appeals being dealt with and none of the cases had progressed to court.
- On the breeding farm visited, a previously detected overstocking problem had been solved by arranging for surplus production to be sent to other farms at an earlier age. On another farm in the same district, where the maximum capacity of the farm had been exceeded by one third, sanctioning procedures had been launched. The case did not go to court as satisfactory guarantees were subsequently given and a further inspection indicated that stocking densities were in compliance.

5.5. Laying hens

The quality of inspections was affected by the following factors:

- The checklist used referred to a legal requirement for flocks introduced prior to the date of entry into force of the legislation. The CA indicated that the checklist has not been updated due to the lack of staff at central level. Therefore, cage systems had been assessed on the basis of a space allowance of

450cm² rather than 550cm²; 550cm² has been required since 1 May 2004. The local inspectors were not aware of the relevant parts of the Annex to the legislation, which had not been referenced, and the CA in both regions had not detected cases, where there was an excess of 25% overstocking.

- In the first region, the approach to inspection was initially to take the dimensions from the manufacturers' plans, but with some prompting from the FVO team, one cage, containing hens, was measured. A maximum capacity for the house was not established nor a comparison made with the number of birds which had been delivered, as indicated in flock records. On the second holding the measuring equipment, which was provided by the farmer, was inaccurate, as the first 4 cm had been cut off from the measuring tape. Also, as the district inspector only checked one cage, the variation in the width of cages, as constructed, was missed and the error in determining the maximum number of birds per cage further compounded.
- Other aspects such as the inadequate lighting level and the provision of claw shortening devices, despite being indicated on the checklist, were overlooked.

When deficiencies were reported (in one region these were commonly in relation to ventilation in cage units and in the other, miscellaneous problems in small alternative holdings), follow-up visits were carried out and the problems resolved.

5.6. Reporting

Following the pre-Accession mission, the CCA indicated that to apply Commission Decision 2000/50⁹ an instruction had been issued; models for reporting had been introduced and the results used to create the basis for establishing training priorities, further inspections and policy in this field. It was noted that:

- The format for summary reports has been used by the districts and all the regions have supplied the results of inspections in 2004. The CCA discussed the outcome from this with the regions to ensure a consistent approach to reporting.
- In reporting infringements according to Decision 2000/50/EC, some cases had been classified incorrectly. Cases of mismanagement where there was total neglect of the animals had been reported within the category "mutilations". In the instruction from the CCA, this category was accompanied by a reference to an Article of Polish legislation which provides a wide legal basis for infringements involving unnecessary pain or distress, whereas the category of infringement "mutilations" relates to cases where there has been penetration or removal of sensitive tissues by a procedure which is either proscribed or is outside the legal restrictions allowed for castration, tail-docking and tooth-clipping of pigs or in the case of laying hens, beak-trimming. A representative of the CCA indicated that, due to the lack of definitions in Decision

⁹ Commission Decision 2000/50/EC of 17 December 1999 concerning minimum requirements for the inspection of holdings on which animals are kept for farming purposes, OJ L19 of 25.1.2000, p. 51 (hereafter Decision 2000/50/EC).

2000/50/EC, there are sometimes difficulties in deciding where to classify certain infringements.

- Deficiencies detected relating to both equipment and stocking density on a laying hen farm in the district in Wielkopolski had been reported as an infringement of “equipment” only and not as an infringement of “freedom of movement”.

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1. Legislation

- 1) Polish legislation provides benefits for animal welfare in advance of certain EU requirements: training of stock keepers has already been established since 1997; the ban on tethering of sows is in advance of the EU deadline of 1.1.2006 and, although it was acknowledged as a problem for certain large farms to meet this requirement, group housing of sows is required on all pig holdings. Regarding laying hens, perches are required on all alternative systems, which is in advance of the EU deadline of 1.1.2007.
- 2) On the basis of a limited review, the transposition of Directive 93/119/EC and Directive 99/74/EC, both of which were the subject of previous commitments from the CCA, has been completed. However, some further gaps in relation to requirements for bedding injured animals and morality records (Annex to Directive 98/58/EC, points 4 and 5) were detected. Directive 98/58/EC had already been transposed through several older pieces of legislation and these details had been overlooked.
- 3) Directive 2002/4/EC has not been transposed and, as a result, although the CA has registered holdings with laying hens, this has been done without all the required details.
- 4) As infringements of the legislation can only be sanctioned through the courts and most animal welfare cases are deemed to have a low social impact, the outcome, after considerable time and effort in preparing cases, often does not have a dissuasive effect and discourage further offences.

6.2. Competent Authority

- 1) Central level has set-up a basic framework for inspections and organised limited co-ordination of the activities in the regions; however, as there is insufficient staff working on these issues, guidance is limited and sometimes out of date.
- 2) Dialogue between the CCA and the regional CAs has ensured that the programme of inspections set up meets the requirements of Article 7 of Directive 91/630/EEC and Article 8 of Directive 99/74/EC.
- 3) There is a basic level of expertise in all regions through the network of contact persons; however, supervision of the tasks carried out by district level is limited and this contributes to an insufficient effectiveness of inspections.

6.3. Support available to the pig and laying hen sectors

- 1) Training courses and publications are available to farmers (Directive 91/630/EEC, Article 5a). However, some of the literature available does not give advice on issues such as group housing of pregnant sows or tail-docking and inappropriate materials for manipulation are also mentioned.
- 2) Close consultations between the district CA and local authorities should ensure that newly constructed holdings meet EU requirements for animal welfare. In addition, although to date the up-take of funding has been limited, it is likely that, where available, this will increase in future.

6.4. Pigs

- 1) Checklists were generally useful; however, the lack of detailed guidance results in certain requirements being overlooked and the lack of budget in certain regions to purchase the necessary equipment also results in certain requirements not being checked.
- 2) Follow-up actions were generally effective, although there are difficulties in getting larger farms to comply with requirements such as permanent access to fresh water (Annex to Directive 91/630/EEC, Chapter I, (7)).

6.5. Laying hens

- 1) Inspectors were failing to detect overstocking problems due to out of date references in the checklist and inaccurate measurements being made on the spot.
- 2) Certain other requirements on the checklist were overlooked as although central level has provided training to the regional level, the regions in turn have not ensured an adequate methodology for inspection at district level.
- 3) When deficiencies were detected, follow-up visits were carried out and the problems resolved.

6.6. Reporting

- 1) An effective system to meet the requirements of Decision 2000/50/EC has been set up and the CCA has taken steps to ensure a consistent approach. However, on a point of detail, the legal reference provided for “mutilations”, has led to some cases of infringements being incorrectly classified.
- 2) Under-reporting of infringements has arisen where farms with two or more deficiencies have been counted only in relation to one of these deficiencies and not in relation to the others. This type of error should be picked up if the reports on which the summaries are based are checked.

6.7. Overall conclusion

Although there are legal gaps in relation to certain issues, the application of several other requirements in Polish legislation are in advance of EU deadlines. The CCA has delivered on commitments given in response to a pre-Accession mission in 2004, in relation to amending legislation and developing the system for farm

inspections. However, the information provided to and the inspections carried out on the pig sector were variable in quality and the inspections of laying hens in cages were inadequate. Sufficient guidance and training has not yet been provided and, as the higher levels of the CA were unaware of major inadequacies regarding inspections of laying hens, supervision has not been sufficient. When deficiencies are detected by district level follow-up action is initiated, but procedures through the courts are often not effective in motivating inspectors and discouraging infringements.

7. CLOSING MEETING

A closing meeting was held on 1 July 2005 with representatives of the CCA. At this meeting, the CCA did not express any major disagreement on the main findings presented by the FVO team. In relation to provision of further detailed guidance on EU animal welfare legislation, the CCA felt it would be more appropriate for this to be done at an EU level so that minimum standards were better harmonised in the Member States. Likewise, it was felt that definitions for the classification of infringements used in Decision 2000/50 would be useful. The CCA also undertook to clarify for the other levels of the CA the space requirements for caged laying hens, so that the issue of overstocking could be urgently addressed.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

To the competent authorities of Poland

Within 25 working days of receipt of the final mission report, the Competent Authorities are requested to present a plan of actions, including a timetable for their completion, to address the following recommendations.

- (1) To correctly transpose and/or take measures to bring into effect:
 - (a) The provision, where appropriate, of dry comfortable bedding to sick or injured animals (Annex to Directive 98/58/EC, point 4).
 - (b) The maintenance of a record of the number of mortalities found at each inspection (Annex to Directive 98/58/EC, point 5).
- (2) To transpose Directive 2002/4/EC concerning the registration of establishments with laying hens covered by Directive 99/74/EC.
- (3) To take measures to ensure that sanctions have the necessary effect of discouraging offenders (Directive 91/630/EEC, Article 11 (1) and Directive 99/74/EC, Article 13).
- (4) To provide sufficient staff at central level, in particular to provide guidance, updating this as necessary and co-ordinating activities in relation to animal welfare.
- (5) To further develop the regional supervision of district level in order to improve the quality of animal welfare inspections and reporting of results.
- (6) In relation to the pig sector, to take steps to ensure that:

- (a) Appropriate instructions and guidance are available to both farmers (Directive 91/630/EEC, Article 5a) and those carrying out checks, in particular on group housing of pregnant sows, bulky feed for pregnant sows, tail-docking, castration and appropriate materials for manipulation.
 - (b) The requirement for permanent access to fresh water (Annex to Directive 91/630/EEC, Chapter I, (7)) is respected.
- (7) To take measures to ensure that an adequate methodology is adopted for the inspection of holdings and that appropriate equipment is available to measure space allowance and parameters such as light, noise and adequacy of ventilation.
 - (8) In relation to laying hens, re-assess farms which have been already inspected, in particular in relation to space allowance (Directive 99/74/EC, Article 5, (1) point 1.1) and where overstocking is detected, dissuasive actions should be taken.
 - (9) Regarding the reporting of infringements (Decision 2000/50/EC), take steps to ensure that:
 - (a) All infringements are classified correctly.
 - (b) When more than one deficiency is detected on the same holding, all the categories infringed are reported.

9. ADDENDUM TO MISSION REPORT DG/(SANCO)/7638/2005

In their comments on a draft version of this report, the central competent authority provided an action plan to address the recommendations as follows:

- 1) In relation to recommendation (1) that they propose to amend the Decree of 13 September 2005 amending the Decree on the minimum living conditions of individual species of farm animals.
- 2) In reply to recommendation (2) that the Chief Veterinary Officer addressed a letter on 15 July 2005 to the District Veterinary officers requesting them to keep registers of farms producing eggs for human consumption.
- 3) In relation to recommendation (3), that the Chief Veterinary Officer addressed a letter to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development recommending to amend the Act of 21 August 1997 on the Protection of Animals in order to introduce the possibility of using administrative sanctions to punish animal welfare infringements.
- 4) In reply to recommendation (4), that, from 19 December 2005, the Office of Health and Protection of Animals of the General Veterinary Inspectorate will employ an additional Senior Inspector who is responsible for animal protection issues.
- 5) In relation to recommendation (5), that new check-lists for animal welfare inspections have been revised by the General Veterinary Inspectorate and

will be presented to the Voivodship Inspectors at a meeting on animal protection held on 21-22 February 2006.

- 6) In reply to recommendation (6), that the Chief Veterinary Officer addressed a letter on 30 January 2006 to Veterinary Officers requesting them to ensure during their inspections that pigs which are more than 2 weeks old have permanent access to water and that castration and tail docking are performed in compliance with the law. The letter also contained an information leaflet targeted at pig keepers and instructed inspectors of farms to distribute it in pig farms.
- 7) In relation to recommendation (7), that the Chief Veterinary Officer addressed a letter on 5 December 2005 to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development asking financial provisions to buy appropriate equipment.
- 8) In reply to recommendation (8), that the Chief Veterinary Officer will send an instruction to inspect again laying hen farms with more than 350 hens kept in cage system as soon as the new check-list for inspection of farms is approved and to ensure compliance with space allowance.
- 9) In relation to recommendation (9), that the Chief Veterinary Officer amended his earlier instruction of 31 May 2005 to ensure that all infringements related to “mutilations” will be correctly classified and that all deficiencies will be reported when more than one deficiency is detected on the same farm.