

## ROADMAP

Title of the initiative: **Communication concerning the Second EU strategy for the protection and welfare of animals (2011-2015)**

Type of initiative (CWP/Catalogue/Comitology): CWP

Lead DG: SANCO D5

Expected date of adoption of the initiative (month/year): December 2011

Date of modification:

Version No:

### Initial IA screening & planning of further work

#### A. Context and problem definition

(i) What is the political context of the initiative? (ii) How does this initiative relate to past and possible future initiatives, and to other EU policies?

In 2006, the Commission adopted a Community Action Plan on the protection and welfare of animals (2006-2010) (COM(2006)13 final) where the future initiatives regarding animal welfare were laid down. The Action plan integrated for the first time in one strategic paper all the initiatives of the EU related to the protection and welfare of animals (use of animals for scientific purposes, wild species protection, farm animal welfare, market issues).

Based on the results derived from the implementation of the action plan, the Commission has initiated in 2010 an evaluation of the EU policy on animal welfare which will establish the future steps for a new EU strategy for animal welfare.

The aim of this current initiative is to consolidate future EU policies in this area in a strategic paper that will ensure that future actions will be integrated and understood both inside and outside the EU. The Strategy responds to the demand of main stakeholders and the EP to develop EU policies on animal welfare with due regard to the overall costs and their impacts on competitiveness of the sector and to develop on holistic approach.

The strategy will in particular include a list of possible future initiatives (e.g. report on animal transport, general animal welfare law, establishment of European network of reference centres, report on animal welfare labelling, report on the welfare of broilers, etc.).

The strategy will have to consider the impact of the new Art 13 of the TFEU on animal protection and in particular how different EU policies can be compatible with this obligation of the Treaty. The strategy will also consider how existing or future legal framework (i.e. animal health law) can be used to achieve this objective.

What are the main problems identified?

Before the adoption of the first action plan on animal welfare in 2006 (COM(2006)13final), EU policies on animal welfare were not designed within a consistent and global perspective. The main objective of the second strategy is therefore to maintain after 2010 a coherent framework of analysis of the different EU policies affecting animals. The strategy is based on the assumption (laid down in Article 13 TFEU) that beyond specific EU policies, animals deserve a specific plan of actions and as a consequence, a common framework of evaluation in terms of costs and benefits. This implies a better integration between specific animal welfare policies with other EU policies where animals are involved (i.e. agriculture, environment, trade, research, development, international relations, etc.)

Who is affected?

The strategy will affect all potential animal owners mainly related to an economic activity (farmers, slaughterhouses, animal traders, veterinarians, laboratories, circuses, animal transporters, pet shops, etc) as well as the Member States authorities in charge of checking those activities. The strategy may also indirectly affect the food industry, the pharmaceutical industry, retailers and major catering industries as well as consumers. It will also have an important influence on organisations working on animal protection.

In addition farmers and slaughterhouses from third countries exporting to the EU will also be indirectly affected.

(i) Is EU action justified on grounds of subsidiarity? (ii) Why can the objectives of the proposed action not be achieved sufficiently by Member States (necessity test)? (iii) As a result of this, can objectives be better achieved by action by the Community (test of EU Value Added)?

Most of the scope of the strategy is already covered by EU legislation due to the fact that those activities are essentially performed globally (agriculture, medical products, zoos) and common standards are needed for the operation of a single market. Other aspects may be envisaged if it appears that the impact assessment revealed that the subsidiarity principle is respected (pet animals, circuses, animal parks, etc.).

## **B. Objectives of EU initiative**

What are the main policy objectives?

The purpose of the strategy is to ensure of smooth functioning of the internal market through a proper treatment of animals for all the activities concerned in the EU as to reflect Article 13 of TFEU.

Do the objectives imply developing EU policy in new areas or in areas of strategic importance?

Possibly yes in the case of the protection of pet animals and circus animals (provided that these areas successfully pass the subsidiarity and proportionality tests).

## **C. Options**

(i) What are the policy options? (ii) What legislative or 'soft law' instruments could be considered? (iii) Would any legislative initiatives go beyond routine up-date of existing legislation?

Policy options are under study due to the ongoing evaluation. In addition to the baseline, legislative options could be considered as well as actions related to research, communication and international negotiations.

Does the action proposed in the options cut across several policy areas or impact on action taken/planned by other Commission departments?

Yes mainly in relation to the competencies of DG ENV, AGRI, RTD CLIMA, JLS and ENTR,.

Explain how the options respect the proportionality principle

See above, the evaluation is still ongoing and future options are not yet developed.

## **D. Initial assessment of impacts**

What are the significant impacts likely to result from each policy option (cf. list of impacts in the Impact Assessment Guidelines pages 32-37), even if these impacts would materialise only after subsequent Commission initiatives?

The strategy is likely to have social and economic impacts. The most sensitive area at this stage is related to the costs and their effects on the competitiveness vis-à-vis third countries of the sectors concerned.

Could the options have impacts on the EU-Budget (above 5 Mio €) and/or should the IA also serve as the ex-ante evaluation, required by the Financial Regulation?

No specific financial implications for the EU budget are foreseen.

Could the options have significant impacts on (i) simplification, (ii) administrative burden or on (iii) relations with third countries?

Yes the strategy will probably affect relations with third countries since animal welfare is an issue which is closely followed by our trading partners who perceive it often as a trade opportunity or a potential trade barrier.

## **E. Planning of further impact assessment work**

When will the impact assessment work start?  
January 2011

(i) What information and data are already available? (ii) Will this impact assessment build on already existing impact assessment work or evaluations carried out? (iii) What further information needs to be gathered? (iv) How will this be done (e.g. internally or by an external contractor) and by when?  
(v) What type and level of analysis will be carried out (cf. principle of proportionate analysis)?

A detailed evaluation on the EU policy on animal welfare is presently ongoing and will be completed by December 2010. The impact assessment will be largely based on this study. Further information is likely to be needed on the economic side and will be collected as soon as the evaluation is completed and strategic options clearly established.

Subsidiarity and proportionality analysis will be in particular carried out in detail if it appears that the EU should act in new areas (pet animals). But most of the IA is likely to concentrate on the economic impacts for the sectors concerned.

Which stakeholders & experts have been/will be consulted, how and at what stage?

The same stakeholders as the one consulted by the evaluation, which in particular include the farming and food sector, medical sector, university, animal welfare organisations, consumer organisations, etc.

Consultations will start to take place during the evaluation (Spring 2010) through specific questionnaires and web based consultation. Stakeholders will be then consulted on the strategy after options have been established (from January 2011). This will be performed in particular through specific advisory groups already set up within the Commission (sector advisory groups of DG AGRI and advisory group on the food chain of DG SANCO) or specific meetings organised for that purpose by type of stakeholders (farm animals, laboratory animals, wild animals, pet animals).