

## Competent Authority response to recommendations received 14 April 2021

Response of the competent authorities of Belgium to the recommendations of report ref. DG(SANTE) 2020-6953 of the audit carried out from 12 October 2020 to 16 October 2020 in order to evaluate controls of animal welfare at slaughter and during related operations

N°	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Action Proposed by the competent authority</i>
1	<p>To complete and keep updated the MANCP with sufficient information regarding the objectives and official controls of the competent regional authorities in the animal welfare area.                      Recommendation based on conclusion No 32.                      Associated finding No 5.                      Legal basis for this recommendation: Articles 110(2) and 111(2) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625</p>	<p>The Regions will provide information regarding the objectives and official controls for the animal welfare area. We planned to get a definitive text to include in the MANCP for June 2021.</p>
2	<p>To ensure efficient and effective coordination between all authorities involved, and the consistency and effectiveness of official controls or other official activities across its territory.                      Recommendation based on conclusion No 33.                      Associated findings No 9, 11, 12 and 13.                      Legal basis for this recommendation: Article 4(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625</p>	<p>Brussels region: A meeting took place with the local control unit of the FASFC in Brussels on 11/10/2020. Following this meeting: the contact points have been clarified, animal welfare training took place for the veterinarians of the FASFC on 02/03/2021. A letter was sent to the veterinarian in charge of the mission to remind them of the frequency of filling the checklist at the slaughterhouse in January.</p> <p>Flanders: there will be discussions with the FASFC and the other Regions in order to optimize the consistency and the effectiveness of the different inspections. For this the results of the study mentioned in the response to question 3 will also be taken into account.</p> <p>Wallonia:                      Thematic technical meetings will be organized in 2021 between the FASFC and the regions in order to improve the inspection system.                      A revision of the “contrat de gestion” of the protocol (between the FASFC and the regions concerning the control of animal welfare) will be proposed to the FASFC during the year 2021. This will aim to ensure better coordination between the authorities involved.</p>

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3	<p>To take account of previous inspection results when establishing the risk basis for official controls - applicable for Flanders and Wallonia only - and to carry out official controls on animal welfare as planned – applicable for Brussels region.</p> <p>Recommendation based on conclusions No 34 and 35. Associated findings No 19, 20 and 22.</p> <p>Legal basis for this recommendation: Article 9(1) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625</p>	<p>Brussels region: at the start of each year, dates have been set in the inspector's outlook calendar in order to respect the frequency of inspections at the slaughterhouse. If the fixed date is not possible to respect, another date is chosen the week after. This was added in the procedure.</p> <p>Flanders: a study has been commissioned to evaluate the system and the inspections of the Flemish private veterinarians on animal welfare at slaughter. This study should also develop a method for carrying out a risk analysis of the slaughterhouses in order to determine the number of inspections. This method for risk analysis should take previous inspection results into account. The results of this study are expected for November 2021.</p> <p>Wallonia: A new legislation is in the process of being approved by the Walloon Government (the 2nd reading took place on March 11, 2021). This legislation implements the mandatory of video surveillance in slaughterhouses and introduces the possibility of hiring veterinarians by competent authorities. These veterinarians will carry out additional specific animal welfare checks in slaughterhouses at the request of Walloon authorities. This will make it possible to adapt the control system with the results of previous inspections.</p>
4	<p>To publish the necessary legislation to approve the training programme – applicable for Wallonia only.</p> <p>Recommendation based on conclusion No 45. Associated findings No 1 and 43.</p> <p>Legal basis for this recommendation: With the transfer of responsibility for animal welfare to the regions, from 1 January 2015 the regions' animal welfare departments are responsible for organising training and exams and awarding certificates of competence for the activities</p>	<p>Wallonia: A new legislation is in the process of being approved by the Walloon Government (the 2nd reading took place on March 11, 2021).</p>

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	referred to in Article 7(2) of the Regulation, as envisaged by its Article 21.	
5	<p>To set up a system for monitoring broiler welfare so that: Authorities can take enforcement actions on farms when necessary, based on triggered post-mortem indicators of welfare, and the records of daily mortality rates accompany the broiler chickens to slaughterhouses when these birds are kept at stocking densities above 33kg/m<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>Recommendation based on conclusion No 68. Associated findings No 61 to 67. Legal basis for this recommendation: Annex III to Directive 2007/43/EC</p>	<p>Flanders: a study has been commissioned to develop a strategy by which Flanders could comply with these requirements. This study is now in the final stages and describes the different animal welfare indicators, the way they could be measured and which follow-up could be given. Also, a meeting has been held with the poultry sector on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March.</p> <p>Wallonia: A meeting with the sector will be organized in 2021 in order to take the necessary measures to enforce these obligations. The measures taken in Flanders will also be taken into account to achieve improvements in 2021.</p>
6	<p>To put in place a system to monitor compliance with Directive 2007/43/EC in broiler farms operating at the higher stocking densities. Recommendation based on conclusions No 72, 73 and 74. Associated findings No 69, 70 and 71. Legal basis for this recommendation: Annex V to Directive 2007/43/EC.</p>	<p>This recommendation also is part of the study mentioned in the response to recommendation 5.</p> <p>Wallonia: A study on the impact of density on the animal welfare of broilers is currently being carried out by the Walloon Agronomic Research Center. The main objective of this study is to analyze the effects of the system applied in Wallonia to obtain the exemption allowing a stocking density higher than 33 Kg / m<sup>2</sup>. The finality is to decide whether it is necessary to continue in this direction in a context for improving animal welfare. The results should be available before the end of 2021 and will help guide actions to address this recommendation.</p>