



Commission's Report on the impact of animal welfare international activities on the competitiveness of European livestock producers in a globalized world

EU Platform on Animal Welfare
21 June 2018

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EU AW Strategy 2012-2015

- "Commission's Report on the impact of animal welfare international activities on the competitiveness of European livestock producers in a globalised world" adopted on 26/01/2018
- External Preparatory "Study on the impact of animal welfare international activities"

**Completion EU
AW Strategy
2012-2015**

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/international_en

Objectives of the report

Review main international **activities** by Commission with MSs support to:

1. Evaluate their **outcomes** in promoting AW standards globally;
2. Analyse their **contribution** in ensuring a level playing field between EU and non-EU operators.



Promoting animal welfare globally

- Overall objective: to promote **globally** and in particular with EU-trading partners **high AW standards** reflecting **EU model and principles**
- EU at **forefront** in developing AW standards
- **Partnerships** (OIE, FAO, World Bank, EBRD) essential to act globally
- **Instruments**: conferences, training and capacity building (BTSF, TAIEX, training materials), EU research programs, targeted projects



Multilateral activities

1. Setting and implementing **international AW standards** (OIE)

Main objectives:

- Ensure OIE AW standards **reflect** to the extent possible **EU principles and model**;
- Build **consensus** with non-EU countries to adopt these standards;
- Promote and support **implementation** of OIE standards in non-EU countries;
- OIE standards as **basis** to reach common understanding with non-EU countries

2. Promoting EU standards globally through **capacity building activities** (BTSF, TAIEX, FAO)



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Main contributions

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

- International standards (14 so far)
- OIE AW Regional strategies
- **Global OIE Animal Welfare Strategy**
- Financing OIE activities, including training
- OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe



Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)

- Joint capacity building initiatives
- FAO Gateway to Farm Animal Welfare



Bilateral activities

1. Negotiating AW in trade agreements
(Mercosur, US, Mexico etc.)



2. Implementing AW in already signed trade agreements, cooperation fora or arrangements (Chile, Canada, Brazil, New Zealand, Australia, Switzerland, South Korea, Peru and Colombia, Central America, Argentina, etc)

Bilateral Level

Main objectives:

- Raise **awareness** and establish a common understanding on AW;
- Share **technical knowledge**;
- Support in developing and **implementing AW legislation** and standards based on EU or OIE model and principles;
- Discuss topics on AW with impact in **trade**



Research, technical assistance and capacity building

In the period 2004-2015:

- 6th-7th Framework Research programs: 15 projects AW related projects with non-EU institutions
- BTSF (workshops, sustained training missions, e-learning): 1000 participants
- TAIEX (seminars, expert missions): 60 projects
- Twinning projects

Impact on competitiveness

Preparatory
study

Limited number
of responses to
surveys

4 key dimensions of competitiveness:

Productivity and cost competitiveness

- Different perception of competitiveness factors between EU and non-EU operators;
- Cost advantages in non-EU countries mainly due to feed and labour costs, availability of natural resources;
- EU and non-EU operators: positive impact of compliance with AW legislation on product quality

Market access

- Compliance with AW legislation and standards:
 - ✓ positive impact on access to new market outlets for both EU and non-EU operators;
 - ✓ positive impact for access to non-EU markets for non-EU operators

Trade distortions

- No evidence of materialised trade distortions

Capacity to innovate

- Difficult to quantify the economic importance of market of animal welfare friendly products



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Conclusions (1)

1. EC has a **cooperative approach** to promote AW on the international scene.
2. AW international activities are a **long-term investment**, based on 3 steps: awareness raising, capacity building and funding. Over the years, the EC allocated significant resources.
3. EC, with MSs, has played a **prominent** and **decisive role** in raising global awareness on AW with significant results achieved.
4. EC committed to international trade based on values as per "Trade for All Strategy"- **AW promotion**.
5. EU AW standards: **lighthouse effect** and source of inspiration for voluntary industry initiatives
6. EC has succeeded in putting **AW in the dialogue** with many non-EU countries

Conclusions (2)

7. At **multilateral level**, the activities carried out with international organisations **promoted EU AW model** in a high number of non-EU countries.
8. EU has played a **pivotal role** in promoting and supporting OIE activities: **major contributor to OIE standards** setting process and proactive in fostering active participation by several non-EU countries.
9. Commission has played a **key role** in the **implementation of OIE standards** in non-EU countries (in particular on AW at slaughter, transport).

Conclusions (3)

10. Bilateral cooperation has **improved the welfare conditions of farmed animals** in some non-EU countries. It has facilitated the implementation of EU import requirements on AW standards at slaughter.

11. EC's research, training and capacity building activities have reached thousands of professionals. This has substantially **increased the knowledge and skills** on AW, and supported implementation of policies and standards in beneficiary countries.

Conclusions (4)

12. Animal welfare standards have a **limited impact overall on the competitiveness** of EU producers on world markets.
13. **Overall costs of compliance** with animal welfare standards remain **very low** when compared to other production costs that affect global competitiveness and influence world trade patterns.
14. The global promotion of Union standards on animal welfare contributes to the **long term objective** to improve animal welfare in the world and reduce unfair trading practices. It is also an opportunity to better **valorise the added market value** of products obtained under such standards.

Thank you for your attention!



http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/index_en.htm