Revision of EU animal welfare legislation (EN)

Fields marked with	n * are mandatory.		
Introduction			
W h y	are	w e	c o n s u l t i n g í
	explore several options for acon on animal welfare. The air		dentified in the recent evaluation
We would like to I	near your views and experier	nce on the fitness of the curr	rent rules and on how they could i m p r o v e d
Target			a u d i e n c e
members o	directly affected by the legisla f the public nimal welfare NGO's and cor		her food business operators
About you			
Background in	formation		
*First name			
*Surname			
*Email (this wo	n't be published)		

You are welcome to answer the questionnaire in one of the 24 official languages of the EU. Please let us know in which language you are replying.

- *Language of my contribution
 - Bulgarian

Czech	
Danish	
Dutch	
English	
Estonian	
Finnish	
French	
German	
Greek	
Hungarian	
Irish	
Italian	
Latvian	
Lithuanian	
Maltese	
Polish	
Portuguese	
Romanian	
Slovak	
Slovenian	
Spanish	
Swedish	
*I am giving my contribution as	
Academic/research institution	
Business association	
Company/business organisation	
Consumer organisation	
EU citizen	
Environmental organisation	
Non-EU citizen	
Non-governmental organisation (NGO)	
Public authority	
Trade union	

Croatian

Please specify if you answered "other" above: 50 character(s) maximum If you are replying on behalf of a company or business organisation/association, what is the type of business? Farmers/professional animal keepers Processors/processors' organisations active in the supply chain of food of animal origin Retailers/retailers' organisations Transport organisers, transporters, traders, assembly centres Slaughterhouses (e.g. business operators, staff and animal welfare officers) Other supply chain operators and their organisation (e.g. traders, wholesalers) If you are replying on behalf of a company or business organisation/association, what type of production system are you using? Barn Organic Cage Free range Under label or private certification Other Please specify if you answered "other" above: 50 character(s) maximum *Organisation size Micro (1 to 9 employees) Small (10 to 49 employees) Medium (50 to 249 employees) Large (250 or more)

Other

*Scope

Local Authority						
Local Agency						
*Occupion of calcin						
*Country of origin						
Please add your country of orig	gin,		on.			
Afghanistan		Djibouti	_	Libya	_	Saint Martin
Åland Islands	0	Dominica	0	Liechtenstein	0	Saint Pierre and
						Miquelon
Albania		Dominican		Lithuania		Saint Vincent
		Republic				and the
						Grenadines
Algeria		Ecuador		Luxembourg		Samoa
American Samoa	0	Egypt		Macau		San Marino
Andorra	0	El Salvador		Madagascar	0	São Tomé and
				····aia-aig-ii-a-ai		Príncipe
Angola		Equatorial Guinea	a	Malawi		Saudi Arabia
Anguilla		Eritrea		Malaysia		Senegal
Antarctica		Estonia		Maldives		Serbia
Antigua and		Eswatini		Mali	0	Seychelles
Barbuda						,
Argentina	0	Ethiopia	0	Malta	0	Sierra Leone
Armenia	0	Falkland Islands		Marshall Islands	0	Singapore
Aruba	0	Faroe Islands	0	Martinique	0	Sint Maarten
Australia	0	Fiji	0	Mauritania	0	Slovakia
Austria	0	Finland	0	Mauritius	0	Slovenia
Austria		Παπα		Madrillas		Olovenia
						2

International

Local

National

Regional

*Level of governance

Parliament

*Level of governance

Authority

Agency

	Azerbaijan		France	0	Mayotte		Solomon Islands
	Bahamas	0	French Guiana	0	Mexico	0	Somalia
0	Bahrain	0	French Polynesia	0	Micronesia		South Africa
0	Bangladesh	0	French Southern	0	Moldova		South Georgia
			and Antarctic				and the South
			Lands				Sandwich
							Islands
	Barbados		Gabon	0	Monaco		South Korea
0	Belarus		Georgia	0	Mongolia		South Sudan
0	Belgium	0	Germany	0	Montenegro		Spain
	Belize		Ghana		Montserrat	0	Sri Lanka
0	Benin	0	Gibraltar	0	Morocco		Sudan
0	Bermuda	0	Greece	0	Mozambique		Suriname
	Bhutan	0	Greenland		Myanmar/Burma	0	Svalbard and
							Jan Mayen
	Bolivia	0	Grenada	0	Namibia	0	Sweden
0	Bonaire Saint	0	Guadeloupe	0	Nauru		Switzerland
	Eustatius and						
	Saba						
	Bosnia and	0	Guam	0	Nepal	0	Syria
	Herzegovina						
	Botswana	0	Guatemala	0	Netherlands	0	Taiwan
0	Bouvet Island	0	Guernsey	0	New Caledonia		Tajikistan
	Brazil		Guinea	0	New Zealand		Tanzania
0	British Indian	0	Guinea-Bissau	0	Nicaragua		Thailand
	Ocean Territory						
	British Virgin		Guyana		Niger	0	The Gambia
	Islands						
0	Brunei	0	Haiti	0	Nigeria		Timor-Leste
	Bulgaria	0	Heard Island and		Niue	0	Togo
			McDonald Islands	3			
0	Burkina Faso		Honduras	0	Norfolk Island		Tokelau
0	Burundi	0	Hong Kong	0	Northern	0	Tonga
					Mariana Islands		

Cambodia	Hungary	North Korea Trinidad and
Cameroon	Iceland	Tobago North Macedonia Tunisia
© Canada	India	Norway Turkey
Cape Verde	India Indonesia	Oman Turkmenistan
	Indonesia Iran	Pakistan Turks and
Cayman Islands	IIaII	Caicos Islands
Central African	Iraq	Palau Tuvalu
Republic	ıraq	i alau i uvalu
Chad	Ireland	Palestine Uganda
Chile	Isle of Man	Panama Ukraine
China	Israel	Papua New United Arab
Gillia	ISIAEI	Guinea Emirates
Christmas Island	Italy	Paraguay United Kingdom
© Clipperton	Jamaica	Peru United States
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	Japan	Philippines United States Minor Outlying
เรเสเนร		Islands
Colombia	Jersey	Pitcairn Islands Uruguay
Comoros	Jordan	Poland US Virgin Islands
Congo	Kazakhstan	Portugal Uzbekistan
Cook Islands	Kenya	Puerto Rico Vanuatu
Costa Rica	Kiribati	Qatar Varidate Varidate Vatican City
© Côte d'Ivoire	Kosovo	Réunion Valican Oity Venezuela
Croatia	Kuwait	Romania Venezuela Venezuela Venezuela
© Cuba	Kyrgyzstan	Russia Wallis and
Guba	Nyigyzsiaii	Futuna
Curação	Laos	Rwanda Western Sahara
Cyprus	Latvia	Saint Barthélemy Yemen
Czechia	Lebanon	Saint Helena Zambia
		Ascension and
		Tristan da Cunha
Democratic	Lesotho	Saint Kitts and Zimbabwe
Republic of the		Nevis
Congo		
3 -		

ımber	
ne transparency register.	It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to
	umber he <u>transparency register</u> .

The Commission will publish all contributions to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. Fo r the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association, 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published. Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

*Contribution publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

Anonymous

The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, your country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself.

Public

Your name, the type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, your country of origin and your contribution will be published.

*Contribution publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

Anonymous

Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

Public

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

■ I agree with the personal data protection provisions

Fitness check and revision of current legislation:

In 2020, the European Commission adopted its $\underline{\text{Farm to Fork Strategy}}$ (F2F), to promote a shift towards a $\underline{\text{su}}$ $\underline{\text{stainable food system.}}$

Because animal welfare is a cornerstone of sustainable food production, Farm to Fork committed the Commission to revising the current EU animal welfare legislation by 2023, and to consider options for animal welfare labelling.

The purpose is to improve animal welfare and broaden the scope of the legislation, by aligning it with the latest scientific evidence, current political priorities and public expectations – all while making the legislation easier to enforce.

The EU legislation under review is:

- a Directive concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes
- 4 Directives laying down minimum standards for protecting:
 - laying hens
 - broilers
 - pigs
 - calves
- a Regulation on animal transport
- a Regulation on the protection of animals at the time of killing.

These EU acts regulate animal welfare at farm level, during transport and at slaughter, and cover animals – including fish – that are bred and kept for farming purposes, as well as cats and dogs that are transported for commercial purposes.

The acts do not cover wild animals (except when they are killed for the purpose of depopulation), experimental or laboratory animals (except when they are being transported) or any invertebrate animals.

The goal is to improve the welfare of animals while ensuring sustainable production and fair competition for EU businesses in the single market.

In 2020 the Commission performed an evaluation ('fitness check') of the existing legislation, to assess what needed to be changed, followed in 2021 by the start of an impact assessment for the possible changes.

This consultation would like to know your views on the existing animal welfare rules, as well the changes we are suggesting.

1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Do not know
* Compared to 25 years ago, there is more uniform protection of farmed animals across EU countries	0	0	0	0	0
* Compared to 25 years ago, more comprehensive protection of farmed animals (in terms of species protected) has been reached across the EU	0	0	0	0	0
* Requirements set by EU rules on animal welfare are easy to apply and it is clear how they should be applied	0	0	0	0	0
* Increased animal welfare has contributed to a more sustainable food system, for instance by allowing for healthier animals to enter the food chain	0	0	0	0	0
* Having common rules on animal welfare has facilitated trade and improved competition in Europe – for instance by removing obstacles to trading animals and products of animal origin in the single market	0	0	0	0	0

2. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

* Abiding by (certain) animal welfare requirements set in EU rules is not (too) burdensome and/or costly for producers (e.g. farmers)	•	0	0	0	0
Abiding by (certain) animal welfare requirements set in EU rules is not (too) burdensome and/or costly for processors (e.g. slaughterhouses)	0	0	•	0	0
* Abiding by (certain) animal welfare requirements set in EU rules is not (too) burdensome and/or costly for retailers	0	0	0	0	0
* Abiding by (certain) animal welfare requirements set in EU rules is not disproportionally burdensome and/or costly for small/medium businesses (e.g. slaughterhouses, transport companies, retailers)	©	•	•	©	•
* Rules and requirements on animal welfare are not (too) complex for consumers to understand	0	0	0	0	0
* EU rules and requirements on animal welfare impose extra costs on consumers when buying animal welfare-compliant products	0	0	0	0	0

3. Level of information on animal welfare standards in the EU

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Do not know
* I feel sufficiently informed about the conditions under which animals are farmed in the EU (i.e. how they are treated during the breeding period)	0	0	0	0	0
* I feel sufficiently informed about the conditions under which farmed animals are transported in the EU	0	0	0	0	0
* I feel sufficiently informed about the conditions under which farmed animals are transported beyond EU borders	0	0	0	0	0
* I feel sufficiently informed about the conditions under which farmed animals are slaughtered in the EU	0	0	0	0	0

Possible changes to EU animal welfare legislation:

4. Is the current level of animal welfare in the EU sufficient to:

*- Ensure adequate and uniform protection of all animal species in need?
Yes
□ No
Do not know
*- Ensure that businesses can compete fairly across the EU?
Yes
□ No
Do not know
*- Meet future challenges in relation to sustainable food production, such as climate
change and biodiversity loss?
Yes
□ No
Do not know

If you have replied NO to any of the questions above, which of the actions listed below could help improve animal welfare in the EU?

	Very important	Important	Moderately important
More inspections and controls by national authorities to improve compliance with existing rules	0	0	0
Improve existing rules on welfare requirements for pigs, calves, laying hens and broilers	0	0	0
Cover additional animal species, alongside the ones that are already protected by specific legislation (pigs, calves, laying hens and broilers)	0	0	0
Increase the use of modern technology to better monitor the welfare of animals during transport (e.g. cameras, satellite navigation systems, artificial intelligence)?	0	0	•
Increase the use of scientific indicators, to better assess the welfare of animals (e.g. injury rates other than foot-pad dermatitis)	0	0	0
Improve training for people handling animals, so they are able to adopt practices that improve welfare (e.g. for farmers, slaughterhouse staff and drivers)	0	0	0
Provide better information to consumers on animal welfare conditions	0	0	0

Animal welfare during transport:

Current EU legislation in this field regulates the transport of live animals between EU countries and requires checks on animals entering or leaving the EU.

To prevent injury and/or unnecessary suffering, all animals transported must be fit to travel, sufficient height and floor space must be available, and water, feed and rest must be provided when needed and within certain intervals.

For long journeys (i.e. over 8 hours) between EU countries and to destinations outside the EU, transporters must have the necessary authorisation(s), documentation, satellite navigation system and contingency plans for emergencies. National authorities must carry out checks at the point of departure and on a random basis thereafter.

5. To (better) protect animals during long journeys (over 8 hours):

	Yes	No	Do not know
* Maximum journey times should be introduced	0	0	0
* More specific requirements for different animal species are needed	0	0	©
* Technical requirements are needed for the different means of transport used for long journeys (e.g. satellite monitoring, ventilation and water supply)	0	0	0

6. Given the difficulties ensuring compliance with the rules beyond EU borders:

	Yes	No	Do not know
* Exports of live animals to non-EU countries for breeding should be prohibited (after a transition period)	0	0	0
* Export of live animals to non-EU countries for slaughter should be prohibited (after a transition period)	0	0	0
* Exports of live animals should be limited only to non-EU countries whose requirements on animal welfare are at least equivalent to those in the EU	0	0	0
* Exports of live animals to non-EU countries should be allowed only under stricter control conditions (e.g. at departure, at any stage of a long journey and at EU exit points)	0	0	0

7. To improve welfare for t	unweaned calves	and other	vulnerable a	animals,
such as pregnant cows:				

	Yes	No	Do not know
* The transport of unweaned calves and other vulnerable animals should be prohibited (after a transition period)	0	0	0
* Transport of unweaned calves and other vulnerable animals should be allowed only if the welfare and the control requirements are stricter	0	0	0
* The transport of unweaned calves and other vulnerable animals should be limited to 8 hours	0	0	0

Animal welfare at farm level:

Directive 98/58/EC provides **general rules** to protect animals and fish of all species that are kept for the production of food, wool, skin or fur, or for other farming purposes.

In addition, more **specific requirements** have been laid down in the 4 Directives on pigs, calves, laying hens and broilers.

Since the EU legislation on the welfare of farm animals lays down **minimum standards**, national authorities are free to adopt more stringent rules (provided they are compatible with EU law).

authorities are free to adopt more stringent rules (provided they are compatible with EU law).
8. Should specific requirements for extra animal species be introduced?
Yes
□ No
Do not know
If YES, for which species/categories of animals:
Dairy cows
Beef cattle
Sheep
Goats
Horses
Minks
Racoon dogs
Foxes
Cats
Dogs
Rabbits
Chicken pullets

Chicken breeders
□ Turkeys
Ducks
Geese
Quail
☐ Farmed salmon
☐ Farmed trout
☐ Farmed carp
Farmed sea bass
Farmed sea bream
☐ Farmed European eel
■ Invertebrate aquatic animals such as lobsters, crustaceans
Currently, certain procedures are only allowed in the EU un

9. Currently, certain procedures are only allowed in the EU under specific circumstances and/or if not performed routinely.

How do you think the following mutilation practices should be addressed?

	Prohibition	Additional restrictions	No action needed	Do not know
* Tail-docking (removing part of the pig's tail, to reduce the risk of tail biting in older pigs)	©	0	0	0
* Castration (removing pigs' genitals, to avoid boar taint)	0	0	0	0
* Dehorning (removing calves' horns, to avoid injuries)	0	0	0	0
* Beak trimming (removing part of the beak of birds, to avoid feather pecking among birds)	0	0	0	0

10. On 30 June 2021, the Commission announced that it will propose to phase out and finally prohibit the use of cages for the species listed below, in response to the European Citizens' Initiative "End the cage-age".

What should be the maximum time allowed for this phasing out?

	Maximum 5 years	Maximum 10 years	Maximum 15 years	Do not know
* Sows (farrowing crates and sow stalls)	0	•	0	0
* Laying hens	0	0	0	0

* Calves (individual pens)	0	©	©	0
* Rabbits	0	0	0	0
* Pullets	0	0	0	0
* Broiler breeders	0	0	0	0
* Layer breeders	0	0	0	0
* Quail	0	0	0	0
* Ducks	0	0	0	0
* Geese	0	0	0	0

*11. Should imported products be subject to particular welfare requirements, such as "cage-free"?

Yes

■ No

Do not know

If YES, should these requirements be:

	Yes	No	Do not know
The same as those that apply to EU production?	0	0	0
Equivalent to those applied to EU production?	0	0	0
Specific labelling rules to allow consumers to identify products produced under EU welfare conditions?	0	0	0

Animal welfare at the time of killing:

12. Current EU legislation does not contain specific requirements for killing of farmed fish.

For other species, it provides a list of authorised methods, some of which have been scientifically challenged on animal welfare grounds – like the use of carbon dioxide at high concentration for pigs, and electrical water baths for poultry.

The use of electric prods to move animals in slaughterhouses is still allowed under certain conditions.

To what extent would you agree to the following statements?

	Yes	No	Do not know
* Electrical water bath stunning for poultry should be prohibited (after a transition period)	0	0	0
* Carbon dioxide (CO2) at high concentration, as a stunning method for pigs, should be prohibited (after a transition period)	0	0	0
* The use of electric prods in slaughterhouses should be prohibited (after a transition period)	0	0	0
* Specific rules for killing farmed fish should be adopted, to protect their welfare	0	0	0
* The systematic killing of one-day old male chicks should be prohibited (after a transition period)	0	0	0

Animal welfare labelling:

*13. Would an EU animal welfare label be a useful tool for informing consumers on the conditions in which animals are treated?

Υ	es
	(,,)

■ No

Do not know

If YES, should an EU label apply:

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Do not know
To all products of animal origin on the market?	0	0	0	0	0
Only to products of animal origin for which welfare standards going beyond the minimum EU legal requirements are applied?	0	0	0	0	0

If YES, should such an EU animal welfare label:

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Do not know
Be limited to indicating farming methods that use cage systems or not?	0	0	0	0	0
Be based on broader animal welfare criteria, including requirements on animal transport and slaughter?	0	0	•	0	0

14	14. Is there any other comment you would like to add?				