



Evaluation of the 2012-2015 EU animal welfare strategy

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EU animal welfare strategy

Commission Communication COM(2012)6 “EU Animal welfare strategy 2012-2015”

6 objectives:

- *consider the feasibility of introducing a simplified EU legislative framework;*
- *support Member States to improve compliance with AW legislation;*
- *develop EU level knowledge of certain issues;*
- *promote EU animal welfare standards globally;*
- *optimise synergies with the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP);*
- *provide consumers and the public with appropriate information on animal welfare.*

Annex with 20 concrete actions

e.g. implementation report for the slaughter regulation, study on the welfare of farmed fish, EU guidelines on the protection of pigs, etc.

Context and purpose of the evaluation

- 2018: European Court of auditors Special report on AW => recommends an evaluation of the strategy.
- 2019-2020: evaluation carried out, with the support of an external contractor.
- evidence-based assessment of the strategy's overall relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency and EU added value, and whether the strategy remains relevant and coherent until today.

Findings of the evaluation (1)

- All actions listed in the action plan have been implemented except one (possible legislative proposal).
- Significant positive outcome is noted in particular when it comes to enforcement in specific areas (laying hens and group housing of sows) as well as knowledge, sharing best practices and developing guidelines.
- Increased multilateral and bilateral cooperation activities – EU promoted animal welfare standards with one voice in international fora and strengthened synergies with the OIE and FAO

Findings of the evaluation (2)

- However none of the 6 objectives have been fully achieved.
- The objectives related to the CAP and the revision of the legislative framework are flagged as least fulfilled.
- Still important challenges on e.g. animal transport, routine tail docking of pigs, the protection of animals at the time of slaughter and the welfare of broilers

Findings of the evaluation (3)

- problems and drivers identified in the strategy were relevant in 2012 and most of them are still relevant today
- e.g. need for more information to consumers, need to strengthen international cooperation, to optimise synergies with the CAP, to revise the legislation.

Conclusions

- Review of the animal welfare legislation will look at the legislative gaps identified in 2012 and at any new gaps.
- Outcome of the evaluation will feed into this process.
- Enforcement: attention to risk areas identified in the evaluation
- Info to consumers: COM exploring options for an EU animal welfare label.

Next steps towards the revision of the AW legislation

Back to back approach fitness check / IA:

- Summer 2021: Inception Impact Assessment
- 2nd half 2021: public consultation (for both IA & FC)
- End 2021: stakeholder conference (for both IA & FC)
- Summer 2022: Fitness check SWD
- End 2022: IA SWD
- End 2023: legislative proposal