

# Implementation of Directive 98/58/EC and CoE Recommendation concerning cattle in the EU dairy sector

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# Legislative background

- No specific dairy welfare legislation in EU
- **Directive 98/58** on the protection of animals kept for farming purposes: basic framework requiring MS to enact legislation re welfare
- **Council of Europe Recommendation concerning cattle**: principles on stockmanship, buildings and equipment, general management and breeding

# OIE standards for dairy cattle (May 2015)

- Air quality, thermal environment
- Lying and resting areas (bedding, cubicle design, floors, cleanliness)
- Lameness
- Access to pasture
- BCS
- Invasive procedures



# Article 3 of 98/58/EC

Requires MS to:

*“make provision to ensure that the owners or keepers take **all reasonable steps** to ensure the welfare of animals under their care and to ensure that those animals are not caused any unnecessary pain, suffering or injury”*

# MS survey 2015



(1) Level of enforcement of Directive 98/58 and CoE Recommendation concerning cattle

(2) Key factors to enforce existing legislation

**28 Member States  
(competent authorities)**

# MS survey 2015



## Focus on:

- (1) Lameness
- (2) Cubicle size and design
- (3) Injuries
- (4) Tethering
- (5) Access to pasture

**Based on OFFICIAL INSPECTIONS by the CA**

# Respondents to survey

Very generic responses	Responses providing some information	Very detailed responses
AUSTRIA	SPAIN	ESTONIA
BULGARIA	CZECH REP	FINLAND
IRELAND	DENMARK	LATVIA
	BELGIUM (Wallonia)	NETHERLANDS
		POLAND
		UK

# Main findings (1): lameness

Only Netherlands and UK have set maximum lameness prevalence in their national guidelines (with advice and feedback given to farmers)



# Main findings (2): cubicle size and design

Insufficient awareness of importance of cubicle length & width, cleanliness, floor quality and reducing sores and swellings



# Main findings (3): tethering widely used

Cows must be able to freely lie down, get up, access food and water. Untethered daily exercise not always provided. Respect of Art. 3 of 98/58/EC?



# Main findings (4): access to pasture

Many cows are exclusively housed indoors year round. This goes against EFSA recommendations, CoE Recommendation, OIE standards esp. re lameness prevention.



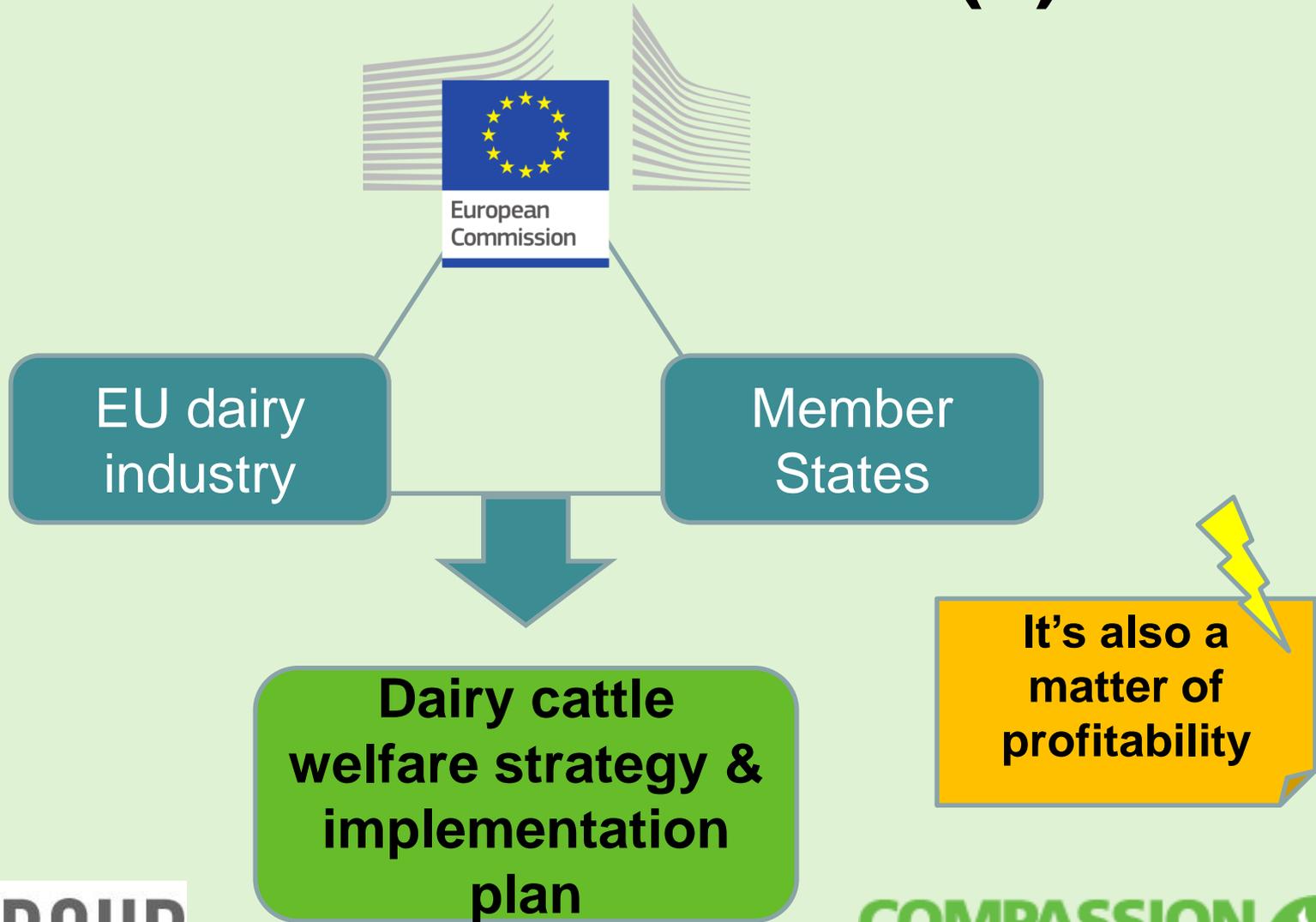
# Conclusions

Received responses from MS competent authorities indicate that many are not making a serious attempt to enforce Directive 98/58 and the CoE Recommendation concerning cattle.

# Recommendations (1)

- The EU dairy sector should respect existing legislation
- The MS and the Commission should enforce Directive 98/58 and the CoE Recommendation
- The dairy sector, the MS, and the Commission should give effect to OIE standards on dairy cattle welfare

# Recommendations (2)



# Recommendations (3)



**Species specific Directive  
on Dairy Cows**

# Thank you for your attention

