

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.



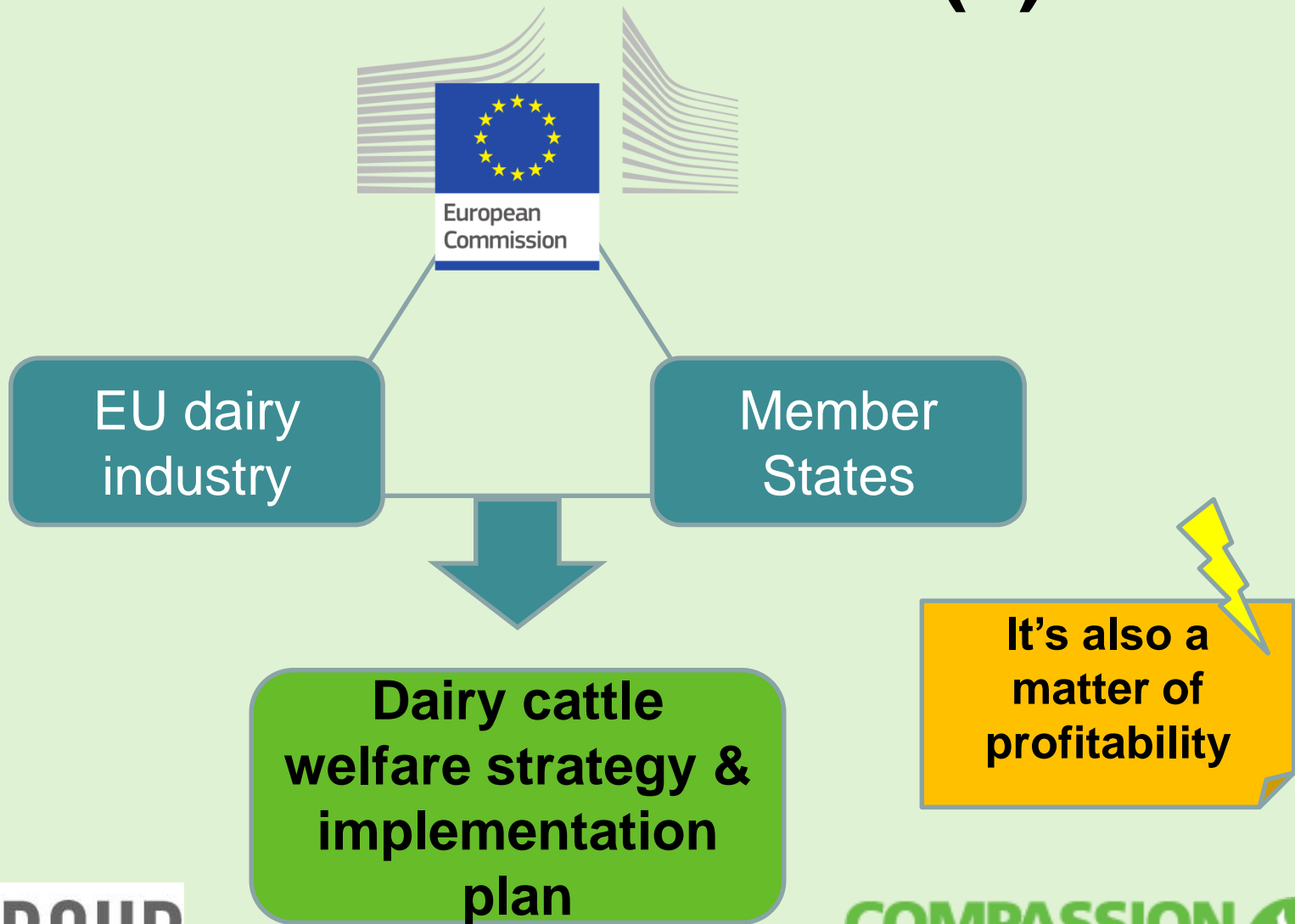
Conclusions

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

