

# Revision of the EU animal welfare legislation - transport

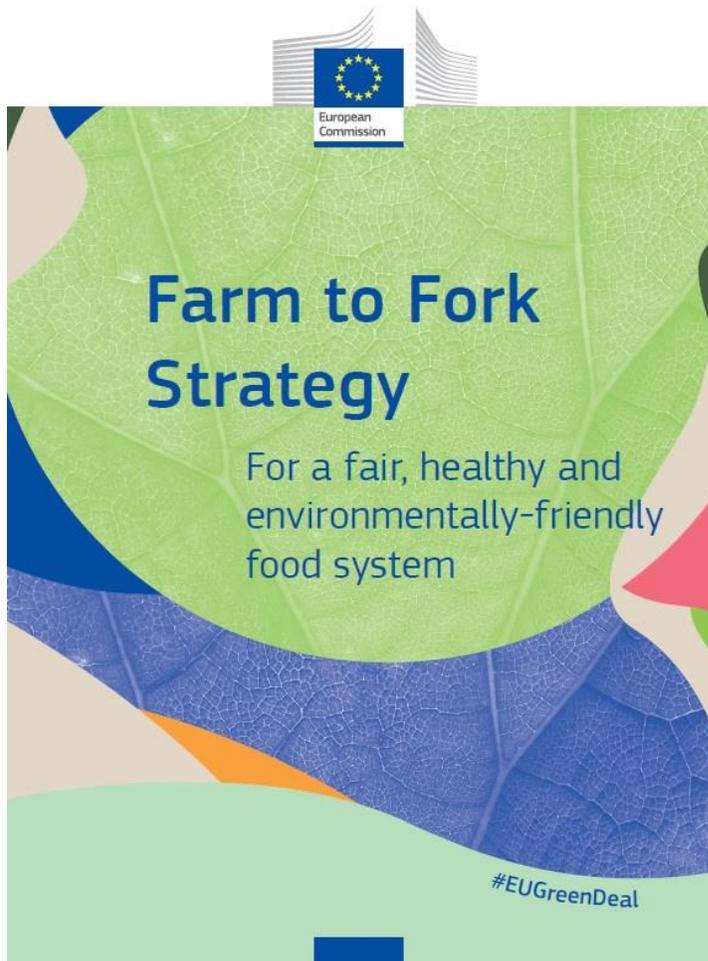


**Stanislav RALCHEV, Policy Officer**  
**DG SANTE, Unit G5 Animal Welfare and AMR**



European  
Commission

# Farm to Fork Strategy

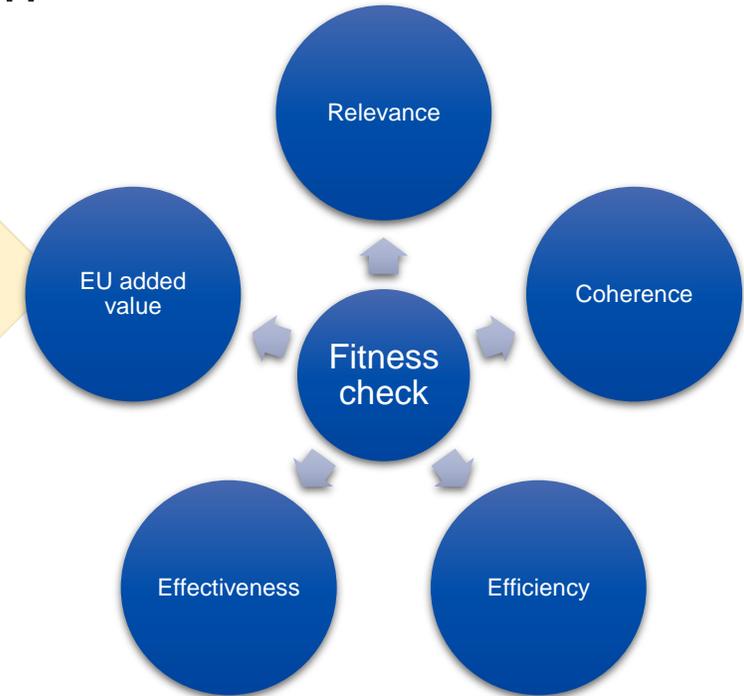
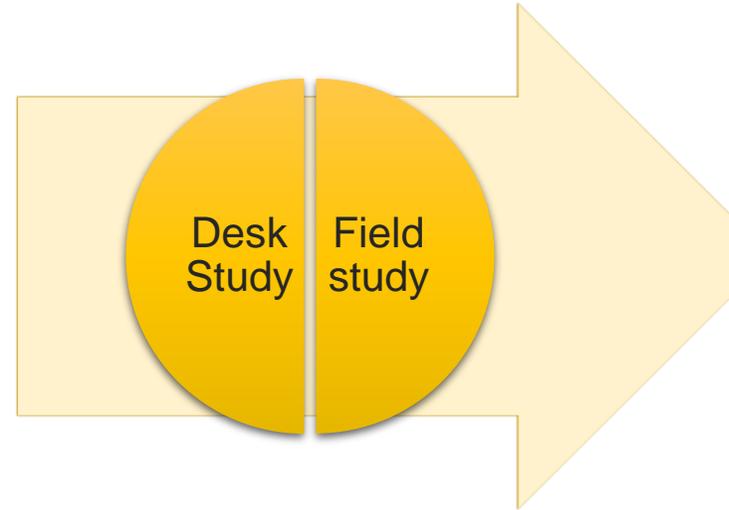


*“Better animal welfare improves animal health and food quality, reduces the need for medication and can help preserve biodiversity.”*

*“The Commission will **revise the animal welfare legislation**, including on animal **transport** and the **slaughter** of animals, to align it with the latest scientific evidence, broaden its scope, make it easier to enforce and ultimately **ensure a higher level of animal welfare.**”*

# Fitness Check

- Evaluation of the existing EU animal welfare legislation



5 Directives

- (1) Protection of animals kept for farming purposes
- (4) Protection of laying hens, broilers, pigs, and calves

2 Regulations

- (1) Protection of animals during transport
- (1) Protection of animals at the time of killing

# Fitness Check: preliminary results

- Lack of clarity of certain provisions.
- Lack of specific, updated and detailed requirements.
- The use of Directives to protect animals at farms.
- Lack of tools to monitor, measure and report.
- Lack of training and competencies.
- Insufficient and uneven information to consumers.

# Impact Assessment



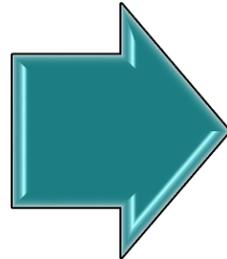
Ref. Ares(2021)4402068 - 06/07/2021

INCEPTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT	
Inception Impact Assessments aim to inform citizens and stakeholders about the Commission's plans in order to allow them to provide feedback on the intended initiative and to participate effectively in future consultation activities. Citizens and stakeholders are in particular invited to provide views on the Commission's understanding of the problem and possible solutions and to make available any relevant information that they may have, including on possible impacts of the different options.	
TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE	Revision of the EU legislation on animal welfare
LEAD DG (RESPONSIBLE UNIT)	SANTE (Unit G5: Animal Welfare and Antimicrobial Resistance)
LIKELY TYPE OF INITIATIVE	Legislative proposal of the European Parliament and of the Council
INDICATIVE PLANNING	Q4 2023
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/strategy/evaluation-eu-legislation-welfare-farmed-animals_en">https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/strategy/evaluation-eu-legislation-welfare-farmed-animals_en</a>
<b>The Inception Impact Assessment is provided for information purposes only. It does not prejudice the final decision of the Commission on whether this initiative will be pursued or on its final content. All elements of the initiative described by the Inception impact assessment, including its timing, are subject to change.</b>	
<b>A. Context, Problem definition and Subsidiarity Check</b>	
<b>Context</b>	
EU animal welfare policy scope and principles derive from Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, which recognises animals as sentient beings. Article 13 also recognises the need to respect the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of the Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage.	
The EU legislation on the welfare of farmed animals consists of a <a href="#">Directive concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes</a> and four Directives laying down minimum standards for the protection of <a href="#">laying hens</a> , <a href="#">broilers</a> , <a href="#">pigs</a> and <a href="#">calves</a> : one <a href="#">Regulation on animal transport</a> and one <a href="#">Regulation on the protection of animals at the time of killing</a> . In other words, it regulates animal welfare at farm level, during transport and at slaughter.	
The objectives of the EU legislation on animal welfare are to ensure by uniform application and enforcement the welfare of farmed animals, while at the same time allowing rational production and fair competition for EU business operators within the single market, and addressing expectations among citizens and consumers.	
Under the <a href="#">Farm to Fork Strategy</a> (F2F), the Commission committed to revise this legislation and consider options for animal welfare labelling. The purpose of the revision is to ensure a higher level of animal welfare, broaden the scope of the EU animal welfare legislation, align it with the latest scientific evidence and current political priorities as well as citizen's expectations and make it easier to enforce. Animal welfare is a key component of sustainability in our food chain.	
On 30 June 2021, the Commission announced in its <a href="#">reply</a> to the 'End of Cages' citizens' initiative that it will put forward a legislative proposal to phase out and finally prohibit the use of cages for certain species in the EU.	
The revision of the EU animal welfare legislation covers animals – including fish and fur animals – bred and kept for farming purposes, as well as cats and dogs insofar as transport for commercial purposes is concerned. It does not cover wild animals, experimental or laboratory animals (with exception for their welfare during transport) or any invertebrate animals.	
To gather evidence to feed into such revision, the Commission initiated in 2020 a fitness check of the current rules on the welfare of animals at farm, during transport and at slaughter, to be concluded in 2022. While the fitness check is still ongoing, available information points to weaknesses in the design, implementation, compliance and enforcement of the EU animal welfare legislation. Among others, the current rules seem to be outdated in light of new science and technology, and the lack of clarity of certain provisions results in divergent transposition and implementation across the EU Member States. In turn, this creates an uneven playing field for EU business operators and poses additional challenges to a proper, effective and uniform enforcement by the competent	

- IIA published on 06/07/2021 (possible future policy options).
- Feedback largely supports the initiative.
- Public Consultation (21/01/2022): Almost 60 000 contributions, from across the world!
- In 2022: External studies to support the impact assessment.
- Legislative proposal(s) in the end of 2023.

# European Citizens' Initiative: “*End the Cage Age*”

**A call of more than 1,3 million EU citizens to prohibit the use of cages for farm animals** (laying hens, sows, calves, rabbits, pullets, broiler breeders, layer breeders, quail, ducks and geese).



Commission communication with intention to:

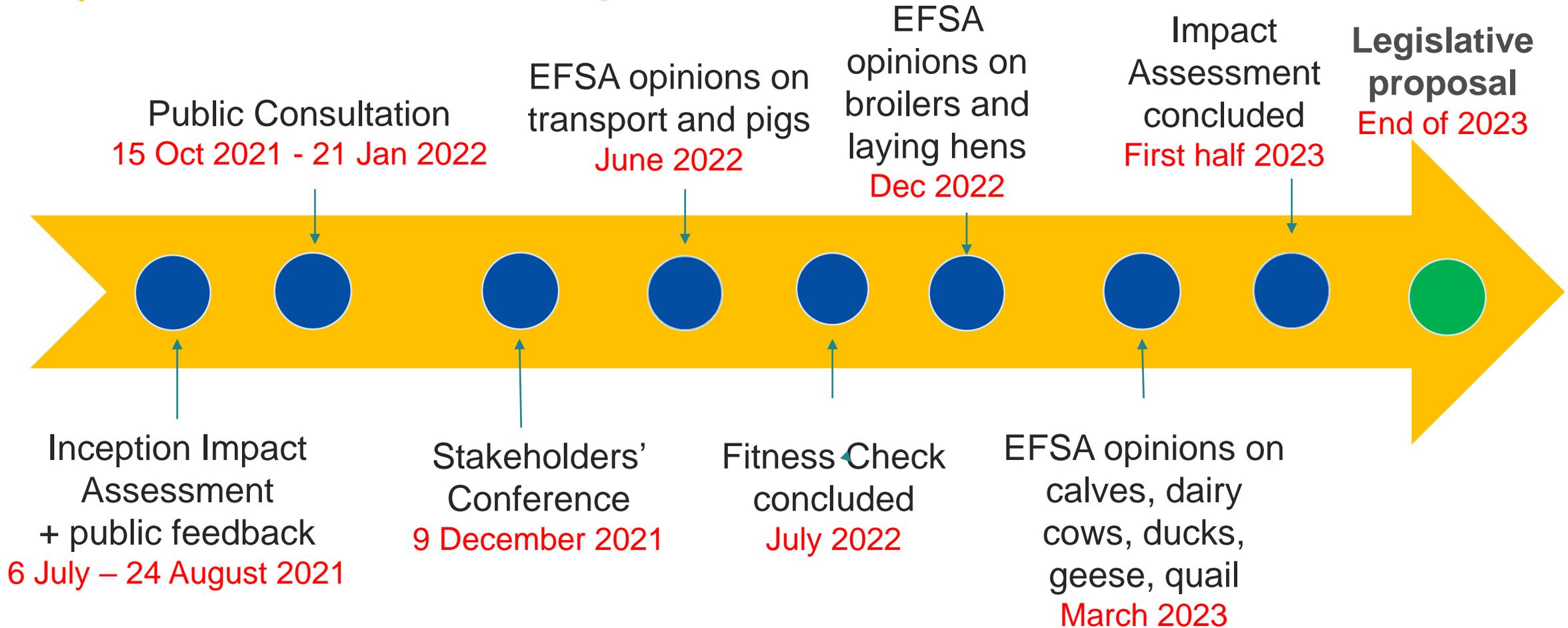
- **Put forward a legislative proposal by the end of 2023 to phase out and finally prohibit the use of cages** for all the animal species and categories referred to in the initiative;
- **Determine the length of the transition period** based on EFSA opinions, the results of an impact assessment and a public consultation as part of the planned revision of EU animal welfare legislation.

# Ongoing main EFSA mandates on animal welfare

Mandate*	Agreed deadline
Transport	June 2022
Pigs	June 2022
Broilers**	December 2022
Laying hens**	December 2022
Calves	March 2023
Ducks, geese, quail	March 2023
Dairy cows	March 2023

- Mandates for rabbits and for slaughter are already available.
- \*\* Also addressing broiler breeders, pullets and layer breeders.

# Timeline of the process



# Study in support to the impact assessment on animal transport

- External consultant
- Study duration of 10 months
- Study's main activities :
  - Desk research;
  - Wide spectrum stakeholders consultations;
  - Specific subjects case studies;
  - Validation event.

# Policy options on transport under assessment

*(non-conclusive list)*

- Space allowances, travel times and travel conditions
- Live animal exports to non-EU countries
- Unweaned and other vulnerable animals
- Better monitoring and enforcement by introducing new technologies
- Means of transports, adapted to new technologies

# Other key & supporting activities on transport

- **EU Platform on Animal Welfare**

- A sub-group on the protection of animals during transport since 2022
- All Platform meetings are webstreamed and recorded:
- [https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-welfare/eu-platform-animal-welfare/platform-meetings\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-welfare/eu-platform-animal-welfare/platform-meetings_en)

# European Parliament Committee of enquiry on animal transport (ANIT)

- June 2020- December 2021
- Implementation by Member States & Enforcement by Commission
- Investigations:
  - a) hearings with experts, industry, NGOs & Member States
  - b) exchanges with Commission, EFSA, European Court of Auditors, OIE
  - c) 3 missions to Bulgaria, the Netherlands and Denmark
- Main recommendations: [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0015\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0015_EN.pdf)

# European Court of Auditors audit on animal transport

- Audit duration – one year
- Publication of audit report – spring of 2023
- Scope – pending clarification:

# Targeted Commission Projects

- Study on shifting from transport of unweaned male dairy calves over long distance to local rearing and fattening
- Study on economic models to prevent the transport of unfit end-of-career dairy cows
- Both March 2021-March 2022
- Final event presenting results in 2023

# Controls on Livestock Vessels

## Implementing Act

Recording, storing and sharing of written records of official controls

- All MS have access
- All info is harmonised
  - THETIS (EMSA)

## Delegated Act

Specific rules on inspection of vessels and controls at exit points:

- Article 21.8 (a) and (c) of the OCR

# Commission audits in 2022

- Remote and on-the-spot
- Sea transport
- Transport of calves by road and vessel

Thank you!