

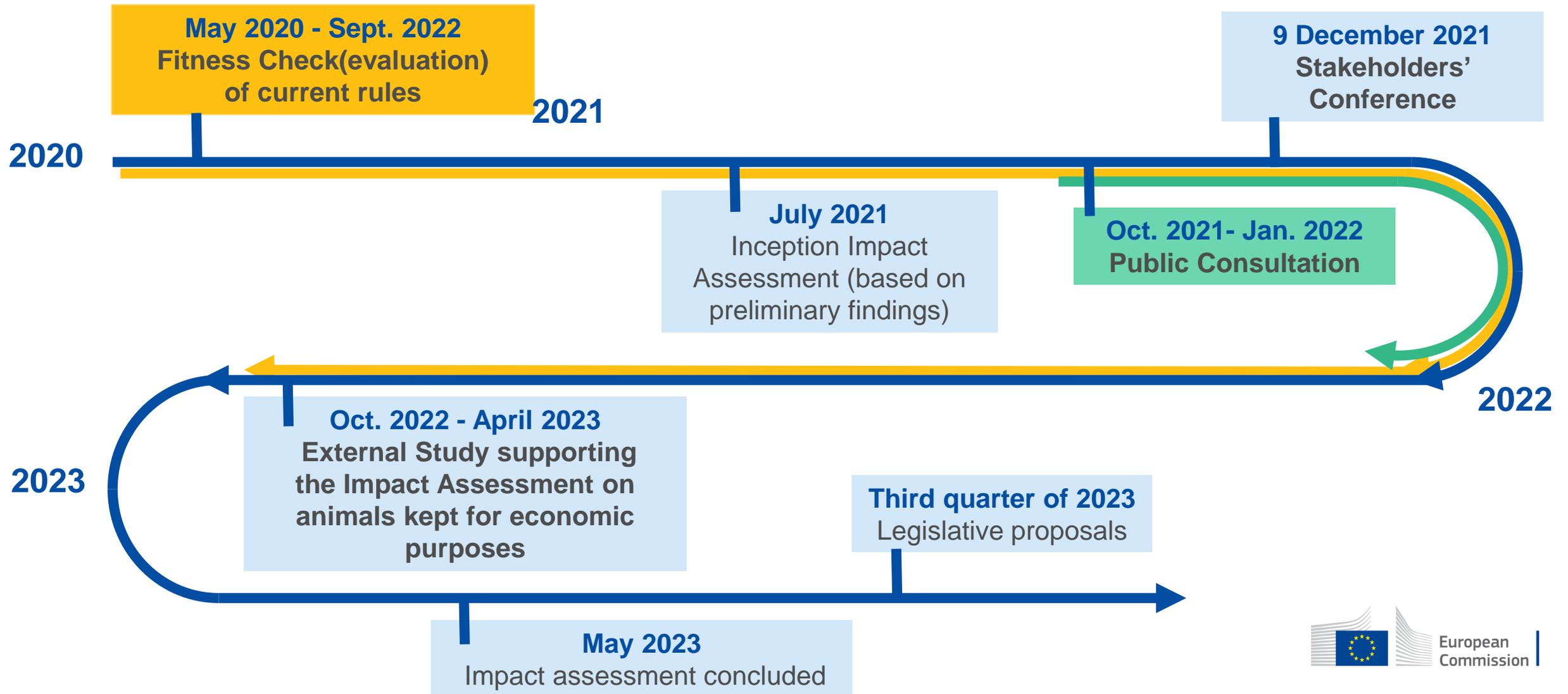
# Update on animal welfare ongoing initiatives

*CDG on Animal Production*  
*31 March 2023*

Animal Welfare Unit  
European Commission (DG SANTE)



# Process towards the revision of the EU animal welfare legislation



# Existing EU animal welfare legislation

Directive 98/58/EC on animals kept  
for farming purposes

Directive 1999/74/EC on laying hens

Directive 2007/43/EC on broilers

Directive 2008/119 on calves

Directive 2008/120 on pigs

Regulation (EC) No 1/2005  
on animal transport

Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009  
on slaughter and killing

# Target of the review

**Modernise the legislation**



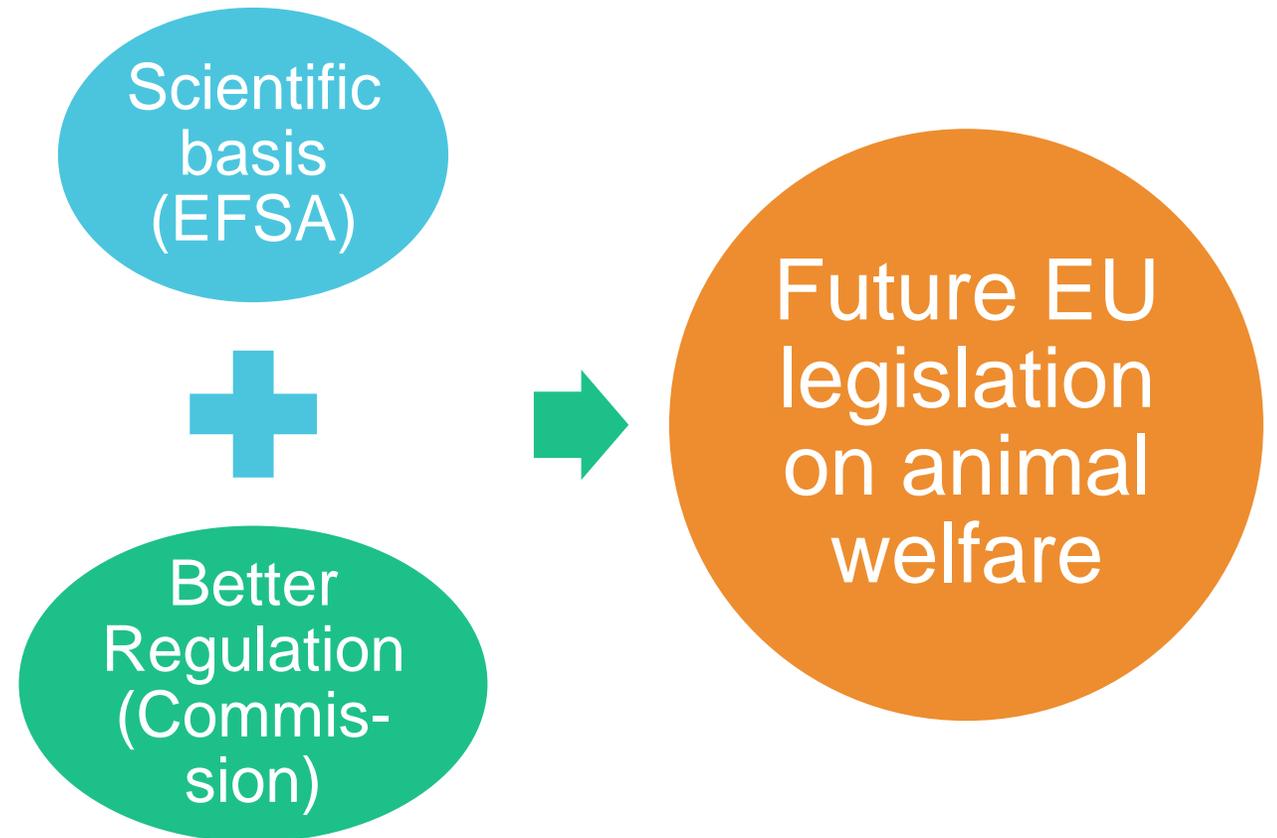
**Scientific knowledge**



**Enforcement**

# Revision of EU animal welfare legislation

- Proposals 2023 on updated current EU law + new rules e.g. on dairy cows + empowerments for future rules on other species + possibly animal welfare labelling
- If co-legislators agree: Future specific requirements (to be developed by tertiary legislation) based on Roadmap agreed with EFSA  
[aw\\_eval\\_revision\\_roadmap\\_efsa.pdf \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/legislation/aw_eval_revision_roadmap_efsa.pdf)



# 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.

# EFSA opinions published so far: transport



- 5 EFSA opinions on the welfare during transport published in September 2022:
  - Transport of **small ruminants**
  - Transport of **equidae**
  - Transport of **cattle** (including unweaned calves)
  - Transport of **pigs**
  - Transport of **domestic birds and rabbits in containers** (including day-old chicks)



<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/infographics/animal-welfare-during-transport-free-moving-animals>  
<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/infographics/animal-welfare-during-transport-animals-containers>

# EFSA opinions published so far: at farm level

EFSA opinion on the welfare at farm of

- **pigs** published in August 2022
- **laying hens** published in February 2023
- **broilers** published in February 2023
- **calves** published in March 2023



# EFSA scientific opinion on the welfare of calves on farm

EFSA key conclusions/  
recommandations  
call for :

**What is a calf?**  
A young bovine animal up to 6 months of age.  
EFSA's recommendations apply for calves kept in both dairy and in veal farms.

Calves need 20% of their daily energy in milk in the first 4 weeks.

**Birth**      **2 weeks**

**Diet**

Long-cut fibre (e.g. hay) should be provided from 2 weeks onwards and gradually increased over time. High intake of roughage will cover rumination and iron requirements.

**Avoid individual housing**  
Keep animals in small groups of 2-7 animals of similar age for social behaviour.

**Space allowance**  
Calves need to have enough space to be able to rest in a relaxed position - at least 3m<sup>2</sup> per animal.  
To be able to perform full play behaviour they need 20 m<sup>2</sup>.

**Cow-calf contact**  
Cow and calf need to be together for at least 1 day after birth.

**Comfortable bedding**

# EFSA scientific opinion on the welfare of broilers on farm



Some EFSA key conclusions/recommendations :

- Dry and friable litter should be accessible in the useable area at all times
- Access to a covered veranda
- Provision of easy accessible elevated structures
- Minimum requirements for environmental parameters (temperature, light, ammonia, etc.)
- No mutilations
- Selection for more robust breeds and/or use of slower-growing hybrids.

# EFSA scientific opinion on the welfare of broilers on farm

Example: Better monitoring and enforcement by introducing new technologies



EFSA key conclusions/recommendations call for :

- Measure and calculate information on indicators (e.g. mortality) on farm and transmit with the flock at slaughter.
- Monitoring of key indicators at slaughter using fully automated and validated systems
- Implement harmonised assessment methods and scoring systems;
- Use databases and systems for automatic and continuous assessment of ABMs.

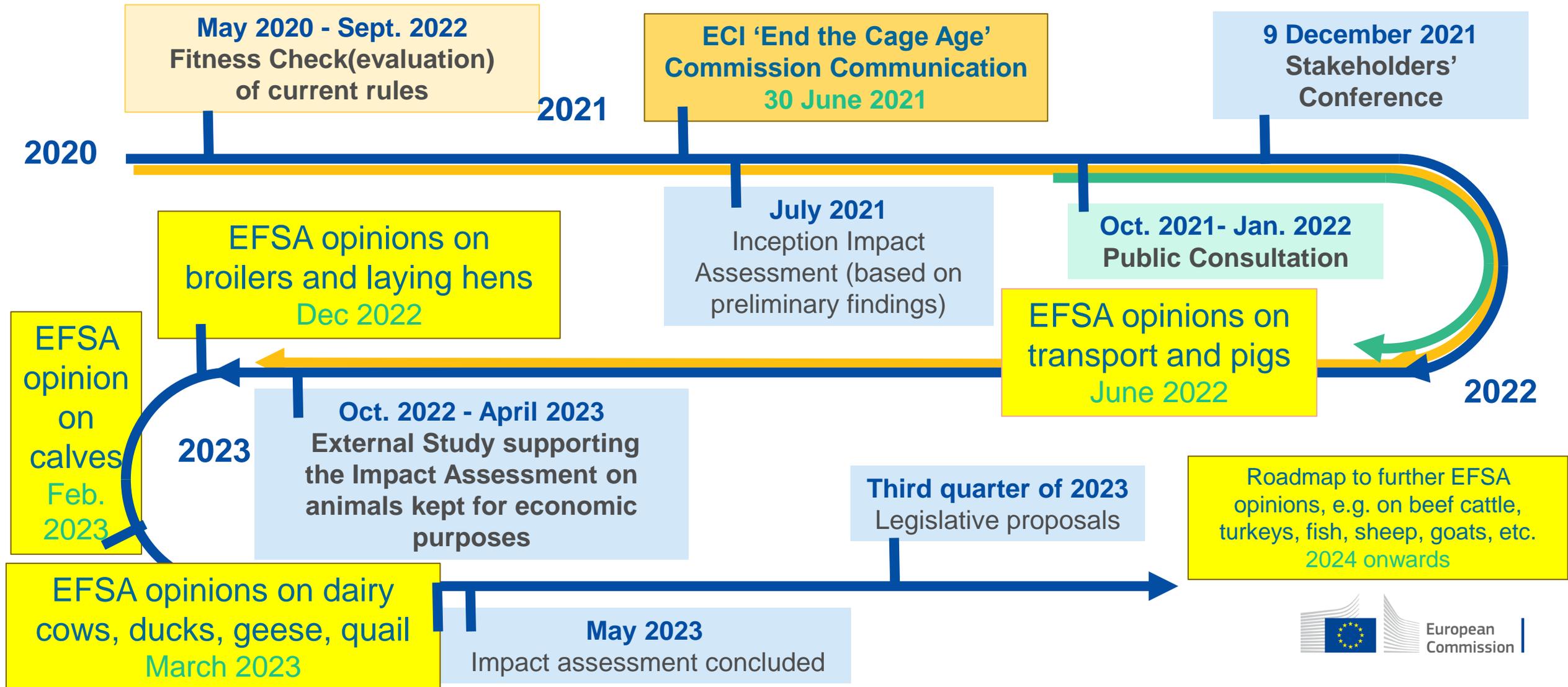
# EFSA opinions expected

EFSA opinion on the welfare at farm of

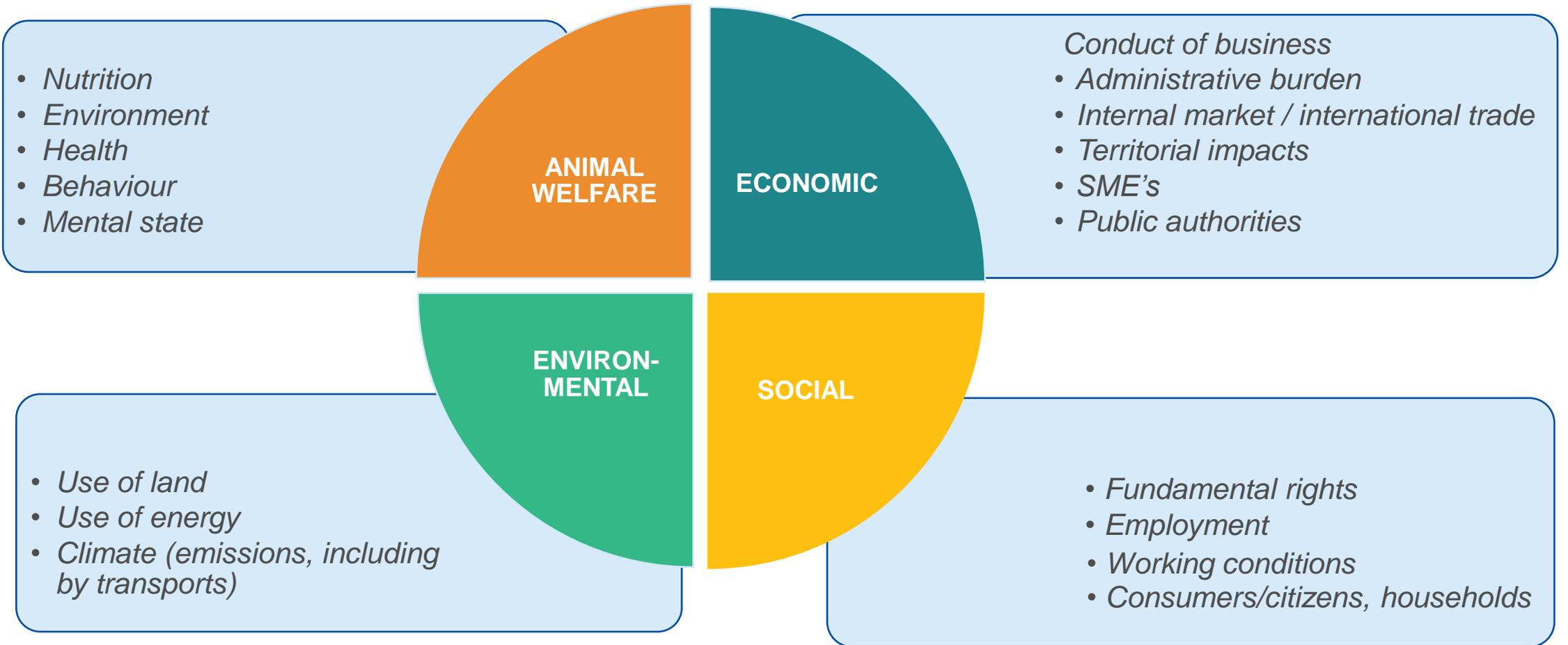
- **dairy cows** to be published probably in May 2023
- **ducks, geese and quail** to be published probably in May 2023



# The role of EFSA in support to the revision



# Main impacts to assess



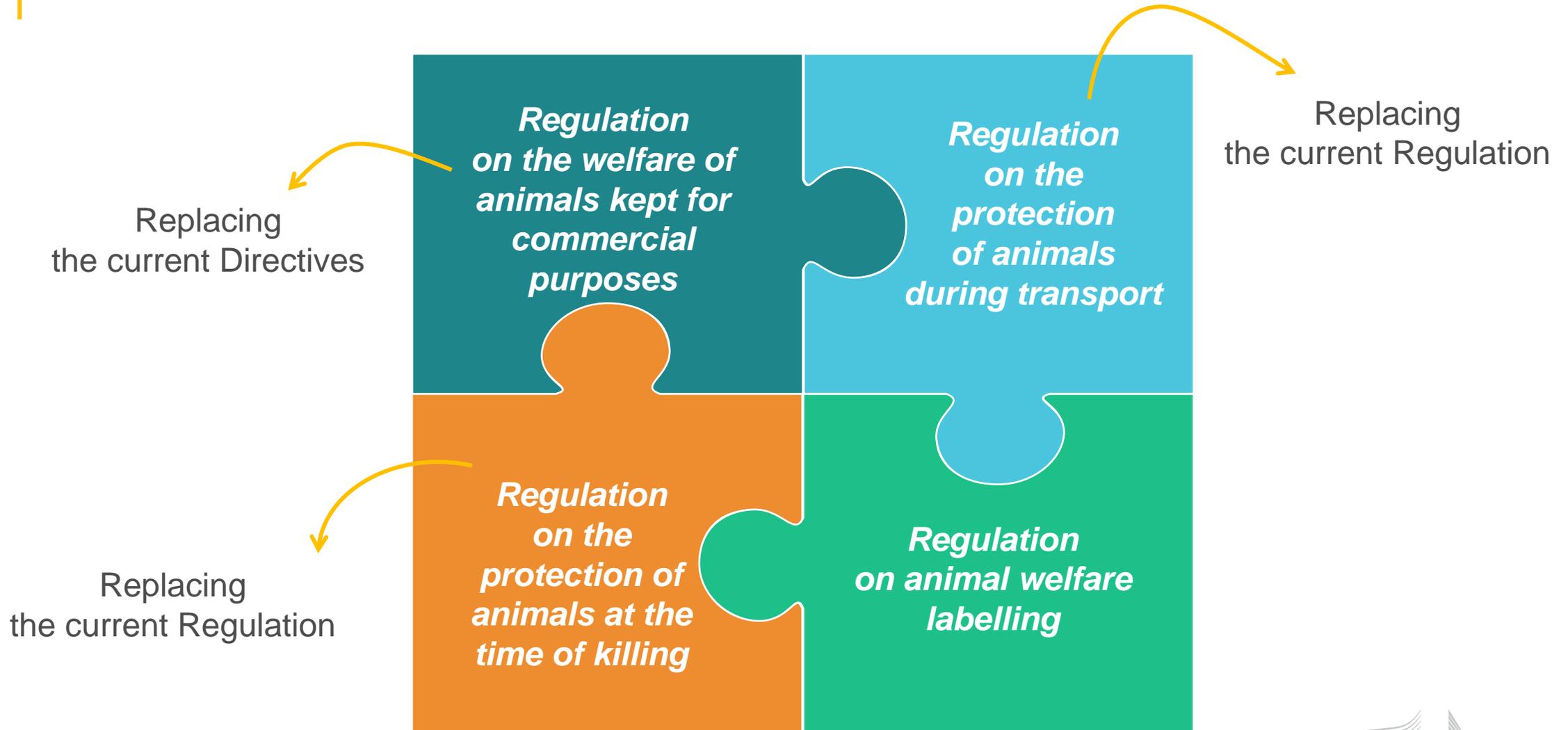
# Key question

*“What are the expected economic impacts, including in terms of administrative burdens, for competent authorities and operators and consumers, both in the EU and in third countries, social impacts for citizens and environmental impacts and the feasibility of controls, of introducing such rules?”*

# EU Platform on Animal Welfare

- 6 sub-group working since early 2022: transport, pigs, calves & dairy cows, poultry, animal welfare labelling, welfare at the time of killing
- 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)

# Legislative package in 2023



# Next steps

- External contractors finalizing their consultation activities
- AW platform subgroup meetings continue
- Next AW Platform meeting on 15-16 June 2023
- Commission legislative proposals and accompanying Impact Assessment Staff Working Document : second half 2023
- Ordinary legislative procedure by EP and Council
- Tertiary legislation based on new empowerments

# Thank you for your attention!

