European legislation: state of play, enforcement and future activities

Animal Welfare From Science to Law
Symposium Paris 10-11 December 2015

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EU legislation on animal welfare

• 40 years of legislation

• Mainly on farm animals but also laboratory animals and zoo animals

• Interactions with the Common Agriculture Policy (cross-compliance, rural development, organic farming, labelling of eggs)
Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

In formulating and implementing the Union's agriculture, fisheries, transport, internal market, research and technological development and space policies, the Union and the Member States shall, since animals are sentient beings, pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals, while respecting the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of the Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage.

EU Official Journal C 326 (consolidated version of EU treaties)
EU legislation on farm animals

5 Directives (minimum standards):
- Directive 98/58/EC All farm animals
- Directive 1999/74/EC Laying hens
- Directive 2008/119/EC Calves
- Directive 2008/120/EC Pigs
- Directive 2007/43/EC Broilers (chickens for meat)

2 Regulations:
- Regulation 1/2005 Animal transport
- Regulation 1099/2009 Killing of animals
Directive 98/58: All farmed animals

- To all **vertebrate farmed animals**

- **General requirements** on staff, record keeping, freedom of movement, accommodation, equipment, feed and water, mutilations and breeding procedures

- Refers to the *European Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for farming purposes* (*Council of Europe*)
Directive 1999/74/EC: Laying hens

- Define 3 farming systems:
  - unenriched cages,
  - enriched cages
  - alternative systems
- **Unenriched cages banned from January 1, 2012**
- 360 million hens with better life
Labelling system for eggs
Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007

- Compulsory information for EU eggs:
  0 = organic eggs
  1 = free range eggs
  2 = barn eggs
  3 = eggs from caged hens
Directive 2008/119: Calves

- **Group housing** if >8 weeks age
- No complete darkness or permanent tethering
- Balanced feeding **iron and fibers**
Directive 2008/120/EC
Group sow housing

Since 2013 in the EU 12 million sows benefit from better quality of life
Directive 2007/43 Chickens for meat

- Regulates mainly **stocking density**
- First EU legislation with **animal-based indicators**
Regulation 1/2005 Animal Transport

**Technical rules**

- *Fitness for transport*: no weak or sick animals
- *Means of transport*: no risk for injuries or discomfort
- *Transport practices*: Loading and unloading, handling of animals, space allowances, travelling times
- *Long journeys*: additional rules for ventilation, equipment, navigation systems.
Regulation 1099/2009 Killing of animals

• Authorised stunning methods (except ritual slaughter)

• **Check on stunning**

• Standard operating procedures

• Staff competence in slaughterhouses

• **For imported meat**: at least equivalent to EU requirements + certificate
Enforcement of the EU legislation

**Member States** are *primarily responsible* for the implementation of the EU legislation:

- Transposition of directive in national law
- Informing stakeholders
- Planning and implementing checks
- Applying sanctions
Enforcement of the EU legislation

The European Commission checks that Member States respect their obligations:

Food and Veterinary Office audits

Member States reporting on inspections

Complaints

Legal proceedings
Enforcement of the EU legislation

The European Commission supports Member States in meeting their obligations:

Better Training for Safer Food programme

Scientific opinions via European Food Safety Authority

Legal interpretations and guidelines
Future EU actions on animal welfare

1. Complete the EU animal welfare strategy 2012-2015
2. Prioritise enforcement
3. Strengthen and broaden dialogue with stakeholders dialogue
4. Better valorise animal welfare at global level
Conclusion

- EU legislation is advanced and comprehensive
- Contributes to long term sustainability
- Enforcement is essential
- Stakeholders' dialogues
- Information and education
- Impacts and action on international trade
Thank you for your attention!

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