



European legislation: state of play, enforcement and future activities

Animal Welfare From Science to Law

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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

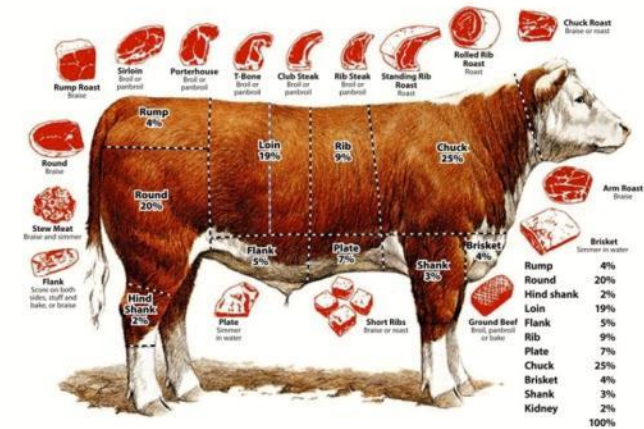
- *Authorised stunning methods (except ritual slaughter)*

- **Check on stunning**

- *Standard operating procedures*

- *Staff competence in slaughterhouses*

- **For imported meat: at least equivalent to EU requirements + certificate**



Graphic used from the AHA website: <http://www.hereford.org/node/781>

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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