



**European Commission
Health & Consumers
Directorate General**

**European Animal Welfare Policies
and
the global perspectives**

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*The views expressed may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating
an official position of the European Commission*

**EU-Korea SPS Seminar
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The global perception of animal welfare

*"Perceptions of animal welfare vary between and within countries (e.g. rich vs. poor people, urban vs. rural areas). Citizens and governments are not always aware of animal welfare issues.
Religious and cultural views play a major role in animal-welfare perceptions, especially in how animals are treated and slaughtered.
Global perceptions seem to follow the way it evolved in Europe (...)" (*)*

(*) Report of the project "Animal Welfare in a Global Perspective" commissioned by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) and carried out by the Wageningen University and Research Centre (WUR). (Januari 2009).



The story so far...

- First EU AW legislation adopted in 1974
- EC Treaty Protocol enters into force 1999: pay "full regard" to the welfare of animals as "sentient beings"
- White Paper on Food Safety: full integration of AW into EU food chain policy, "farm to fork approach"
- The critical link between animal welfare, animal health and food safety has been widely assessed.
- CAP reforms: "cross compliance" and "meeting standards" principles
- OIE guidelines 2005
- The Community Action Plan on the protection and welfare of animals 2006-2010
- The New Animal Health Strategy (2007-2013)-"Prevention is better than cure"
- Lisbon Treaty: legal qualification of animals as sentient beings



The EC Treaty's Protocol on Protection and Welfare of Animals

It recognises animals as sentient beings and requires that full regard is paid to this in formulating and implementing the Community's policies, while respecting the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of the Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage.



30 years of legislative initiatives

- 1974/1993 Stunning and Killing
- 1977/1995 Transport protection Transport time limit and densities
- 1988 Laying Hens
- 1991 Calves – Pigs protection
- 1998 General Farm animal protection
- 1999 Protocol on protection and welfare of animals
- 1999 Ban on conventional cages for laying hens
- 2001 Grouping of pregnant sows
- 2005 Council Regulation 1/2005 on animal transport
- 2005 Proposal on broiler chickens
- 2006 **Community Action Plan**
- 2007 **Ban on trade in cat and dog fur**
- 2007 Council Directive on broiler chickens
- 2008 **Proposal concerning the trade in seal products**
- 2008 **Proposal on the protection of animals at the time of killing**
- 2009 **Council Regulation on the protection of animals at the time of killing**





Council Regulation on the killing of animals

- Operators to take ownership of animal welfare
- Standards Operating Procedures
- Competence of staff
- Monitoring procedure with animal based indicators
- Animal Welfare Officer
- Equivalent requirements for import




Consumers and science: driven forces for animal welfare

The Commission Report on the “Options for animal welfare labelling and the establishment of a European Network of Reference Centres for the protection and welfare of animals”







Socio-economic research and support to policies

- Assessing the socio-economic consequences and costs benefits of measures promoting good animal welfare (CSA)
 - ECONWELFARE – Good animal welfare in socio-economic context
- Establishment of an information platform on the protection and welfare of animals (CSA)
 - EAWP – European Animal Welfare Platform: adding welfare quality to food





FP7-KBBE-2007-1




The Community AW Action Plan: 2006 - 2010

- ▶ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council that proposes five main areas of action
- ▶ Outlines a range of actions for the period 2006-2010 covering not only farm animals, also laboratory and wild animals









AW Action Plan and the international perspectives



Continue to support and initiate further international initiatives to raise awareness and create a greater consensus on animal welfare



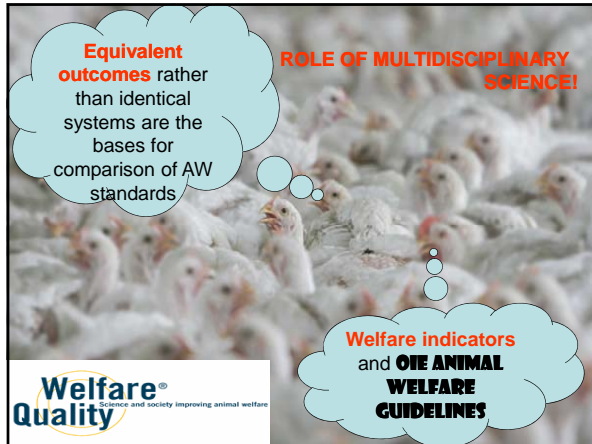
Working towards international consensus

- To deliver **quality** in animal production while respecting **good health and welfare** of the animals
- It requires for producers and farmers a high level of management skills, technical **knowledge**
- ... **but at the same time the capacity to appreciate and understand the ethical value of animal welfare**
- Information of consumers to give preference to **sustainable** products




AW in the EU-Korea Agreement

- **ARTICLE 5.1: OBJECTIVE**
Furthermore, this Chapter aims to enhance co-operation between the Parties on **animal welfare issues**, taking into consideration various factors such as livestock industry conditions of the Parties
- **ARTICLE 5.9: CO-OPERATION ON ANIMAL WELFARE**
The Parties shall:
 - (a) exchange information, expertise and experiences in the field of animal welfare and adopt a working plan for such activities; and
 - (b) co-operate in the development of animal welfare standards in international fora, in particular with respect to the **stunning and slaughter of animals**.




Equivalent outcomes rather than identical systems are the bases for comparison of AW standards

ROLE OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE!

Welfare indicators and OIE ANIMAL WELFARE GUIDELINES

Welfare Quality
Science and society improving animal welfare



Working towards international awareness on animal welfare

- **EC submissions to WTO** on AW and agricultural trade and mandatory labelling for agricultural products (2000)
- Incorporation of AW into agreements and Cooperation Forums with EC trading partners: **Chile and Canada** (2004 – 2005); **EC-New Zealand** and **EC-Australia** (2007-2008)
- Ongoing talks with China, Thailand and other ASEAN countries
- **Teaching** animal welfare on common scientific bases and ensure that teaching of aw and ethics is considered as important constituent of professional development for **veterinarians**
- Supporting further **international science for everyday use and scientific partnerships**: the links between animal health and animal welfare
- **Better Training for Safer Food Initiative**
- Cooperation between OIE, FAO, World Bank, WHO and continuous dialogue with global retailers and NGOs



Working towards international awareness on animal welfare

Business Opportunities Through Improved Animal Welfare



- **International Finance Corporation (World Bank Group): Preparation of a Good Practice Note: Creating Business Opportunity Through Improved Animal Welfare:**
- Good standards of animal welfare are considered as a prerequisite for sustainable agricultural production which create opportunities for trade worldwide
- **Raising knowledge on AW creates opportunities for trade, within the EU and worldwide**
- **Animal welfare: A possible contribution to Sustainable Development**





FAO Expert Meeting on capacity building to implement good animal welfare practices
 FAO Headquarters (Rome)
 30 September – 3 October 2008



“Animal welfare should not be treated as a stand-alone issue but as one among many socially important goals including food safety and security, human and animal health, environmental sustainability, worker safety, rural development, gender equality, and social justice ”

FAO Gateway to Farm Animal Welfare
<http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/animal-welfare/en/>

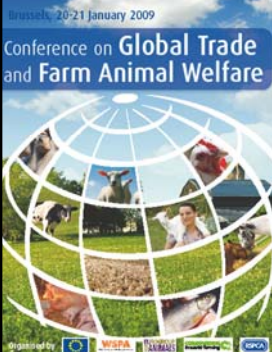
Conference on Global Trade and Farm Animal Welfare
 20-21 January 2009



Brussels, 20-21 January 2009
Conference on Global Trade and Farm Animal Welfare

The global trade perspective: International Forum on Global Aspects of Farm Animal Welfare, 22-23 April 2008, Brussels

- Animal welfare as an **added value** to trade and as an opportunity to improve animal production both for developed and developing countries.
- Improved animal welfare makes **perfect sense for trade**, not just from an ethical point of view, but also from a socio-economic perspective.



Conference on Global Trade and Farm Animal Welfare
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Strategic trends at global level

- Facilitate the adoption of higher AW standards while considering the **regional and local dimensions**
- « **Outcome based approach** » in definition of standards for farm AW and transparent comparisons between farming practises.
- **Identifying ways to address AW in WTO** and facilitate trade in higher-welfare products
- **Cooperation** between international organisations (OIE (*=), FAO, World Bank and EU) and global stakeholders (including NGOs and farmers)



Sustainable production: Towards a « new thinking » of farming.....

- **Human-animal relationship** values associated with food demand and **consumers expectation**
- Opportunity for a **transparent information** from farmers to consumers
- **International partnership, collaboration** between farmers, veterinarians and international organisations backed-up by science and **capacity building**