



Animal welfare activities under the Farm to Fork Strategy

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*Animal Health Advisory Committee
29 October 2020*

European Green Deal and Farm to Fork

- The **European Green Deal**: Make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050.

- The **Farm to Fork Strategy (F2F)** is at the heart of the Green Deal:

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



- The **Council Conclusions of 19 October 2020** endorsed the F2F:

“Special importance needs to be given to animal health, biosecurity and animal welfare” in the implementation of the strategy.

Animal welfare in F2F

1) Revision of the **animal welfare legislation**, by 2023, 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.

2) Consider options for **animal welfare labelling** to better transmit value through the food chain.

Step one: "Fitness Check"

- Council Directive 98/58/EC (animals kept for farming purposes)
- Council Directive 1999/74/EC (laying hens)
- Council Directive 2007/43/EC (broilers)
- Council Directive 2008/119/EC (calves)
- Council Directive 2008/120/EC (pigs)
- Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 (animal transports)
- Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 (killing of animals)



Purpose of the Fitness Check

- Assess if the EU legislation on the **welfare of farmed animals** remains fit for purpose in light of the latest developments and ongoing/future challenges.
- Examples of issues to be addressed:
 - A lack of flexibility to adapt to the evolution of science and technological developments.
 - A lack of sufficient specific, legal protection of certain animal species.

What further action (legislative and non-legislative) might be necessary to align the EU's animal welfare objectives to the sustainability goals of the Green Deal and of the Farm to Fork Strategy?

Expectations from the Member States

When endorsing the F2F on 19 October 2020, the Council:

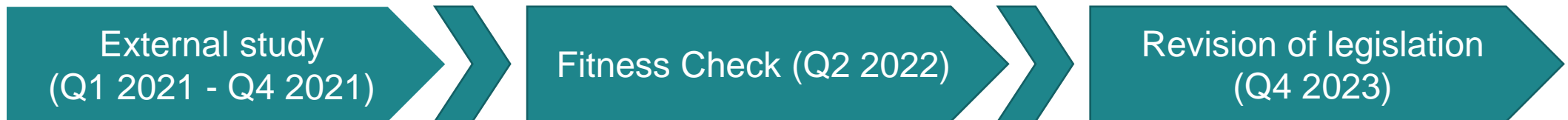
- called on COM to **revise existing animal welfare legislation as soon as possible**, in particular on the transport of animals, and propose new rules for animals that are not yet covered by specific EU legislation, and
- invited COM to **assess the impact of an EU regulatory framework with criteria for an animal welfare labelling scheme** which would contribute to e.g. enhanced animal welfare, better consumer choice and fairer compensation for livestock under higher animal welfare levels, as well as a level playing field.

Fitness Check: Reactions from stakeholders

- Fitness Check **roadmap published for feedback**: 170 contributions (mix of business operators, organisations and citizens from across Europe) largely **confirming the approach**.
- Examples of **suggestions**:
 - Ban on the export of live animals to third countries.
 - Ban on the use of all cages.
 - Ban on slaughter without stunning.
 - Species-specific legislation (e.g. for dairy cows, rabbits and farmed fish).
 - An EU animal welfare labelling scheme.

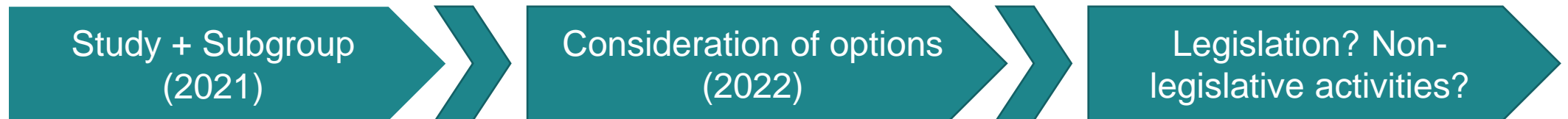
Main activities ahead (*revision*)

- 1) **External study**, including targeted interviews with stakeholders and a public consultation.
- 2) **Fitness Check** based on the external study and new scientific evidence, the results of the evaluation of the EU Animal Welfare Strategy (2012-2015), pilot projects, Commission audits in the Member States etc.
- 3) **Revision** of the EU acquis on the welfare of farmed animals.



Main activities ahead (*labelling*)

- 1) **External study**, collecting data and opinions on existing schemes.
- 2) **Subgroup of the EU Animal Welfare Platform**, discussing the matter.
- 3) **Results of the study/subgroup**, for considering future options.



Thank you!



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