

Farming in the EU and the Effects of Animal Welfare Policies

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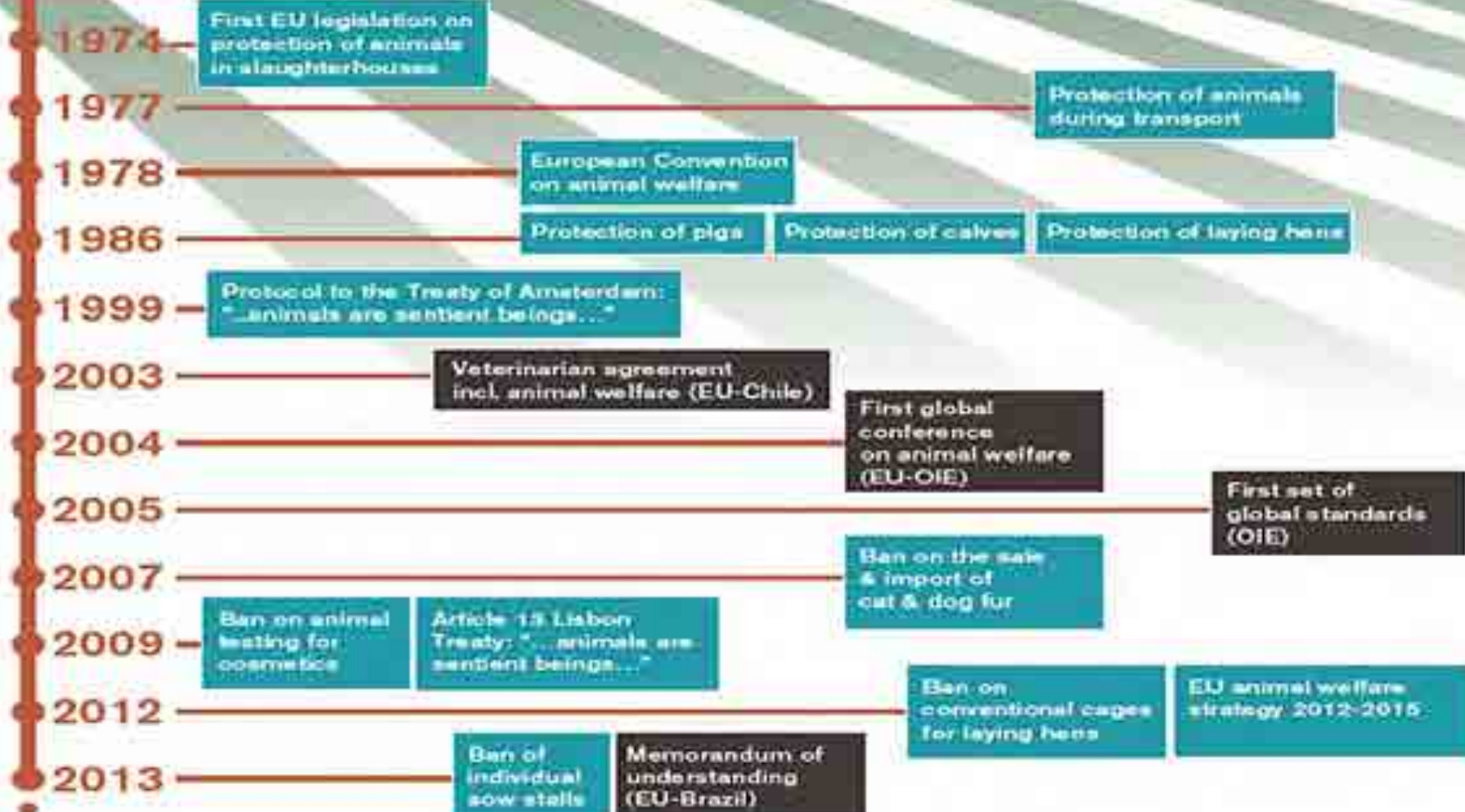
Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU:

*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)

40 Years of Animal Welfare

MILESTONES





Almost 40 years – Main EU legislation

General Directive + 4 specific directives *at farm level*

- ✓ **Minimum standards for laying hens, broilers, pigs and calves**

Horizontal regulations

- ✓ **Transport, slaughter**

Indirect rules by the recommendations of the Council of Europe

- ✓ **European Convention for the protection of animals kept for farming purposes (including ducks for the production of foie gras, fur animals, fish etc.)**



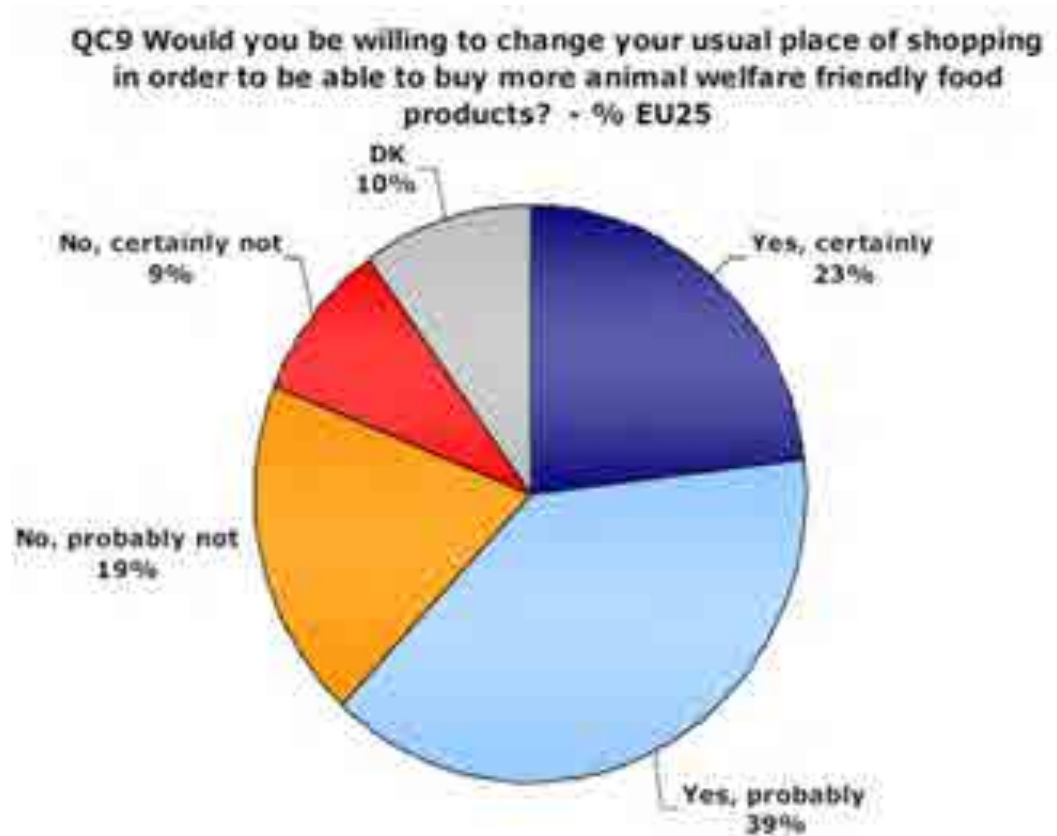
What does Animal Welfare mean to Europeans?

- *Animal welfare is a societal concern in the EU - **Ethical issue***
- ***Status of animal**: from usefulness to emotion - role of modernisation and urbanisation*
- ***Economical issue**: Most animals are kept for agriculture and businesses - how consumers could contribute*
- ***Enforcement**: Member States responsibility - to be seen as priority for fair competition*

Public opinion on farm animal welfare



*A 2010 Eurobarometer survey revealed that the welfare of farmed animals was a concern for **64 % of European citizens***



Directive 98/58: All farmed animals

- To all vertebrate farmed animals (used for production of food, wool, skin, fur, etc.)
- 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



Regulation 1/2005 Animal Transport

Administrative requirements:

- Long journeys > 8 hours
- Authorization of all transporters
- Certificate of competence for drivers (livestock species)
- Approval of vehicles for long journeys
- Journey log for long journeys
- Rules for assembly centers, livestock markets



General technical rules

- Fitness for transport: no weak or sick animals
- Means of transport: no risk for injuries or discomfort + specific rules for certain modes of transport (road, air, sea, etc.)
- Transport practices: Loading and unloading, handling of animals
- Long transport: requires ventilation, equipment, navigation system

Regulation 1099/2009 Killing of animals

General requirements

- Stunning (except ritual slaughter)
- Authorised stunning methods and parameters
- Check on stunning
- Standard operating procedures
- Staff competence in slaughterhouses
- Instructions for stunning/restraining equipment



Imports of meat from third countries

- Requirement for at least equivalent requirements to those of the EU
- Reference to OIE standards
- Part of the import health certificate accompanying imported meat

Animal welfare as a catalyst for new models of consumption



From “changing values”...

... to “added value”

Directive 1999/74/EC: Laying hens

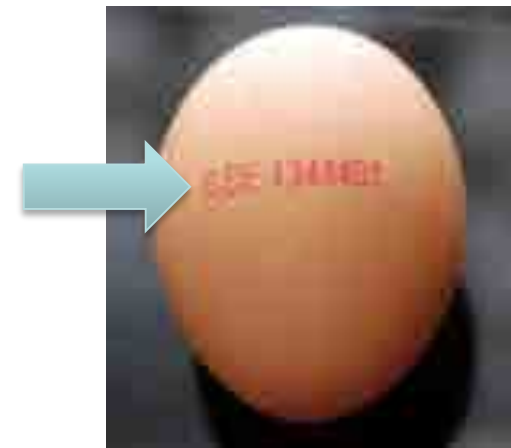
- Unenriched cages = **banned from January 1st, 2012**
- **360 million laying hens with better quality of life**
- Today EU production is in compliance and market driven to larger % of cage free hens



 **+46,000 free-range hens in EU***

Labelling system for eggs Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007

- Compulsory for EU eggs but not for third countries
- The only mandatory label requiring the indication of this information in the EU.
- Very helpful instrument to ensure the proper implementation of the legislation phasing out unenriched cages



 *Empowering consumers, driving the change towards better welfare*

* 0 = organic; 1 = Free range; 2 = barn; 3 = from caged hens

Directive 2008/120/EC

Group sow housing



Grounded in science, an initial cost, an innovative and bold choice made to respond to the demands of European society

Since 2013 in the EU **12 million sows** benefit from better quality of life

Horizontal areas of EU action bringing more strength to animal welfare





The role of EU animal welfare standards

- Providing **added value** to EU animal production chain = higher quality products
- Improving the welfare of farm animals = better food safety
- Standards in line with latest scientific knowledge and outcome-based indicators (farmers given **practical tools to anticipate and counter losses**)
- Increasing sustainability, reducing animal health risks, improving public health, reduction of the use of antibiotics



The role of EU animal welfare standards - II

- Setting minimum standards, paving the way for future **market shifts** (e.g. laying hens, eggs, sow group housing)
- Creation of a strong platform of harmonised animal welfare legislation involving 28 (diverse!) member states facilitating trade of AW products

Legislation alone is not enough

Competent authorities knowledge, consumer education, stakeholders awareness and training are key

Directive 2010/63: Animals used for scientific purposes

Implementation of the 3Rs principle

- **Replacement** – substituting alternative non-animal systems in place of live animals;
- **Reduction** – using the fewest number of animals possible;
- **Refinement** – developing procedures that limit the potential for discomfort to animals.



- Authorisation of establishments and projects
- **Animal welfare considerations should be given the highest priority in the context of animal keeping, breeding and use.**

The creation of **Animal Welfare Bodies** in each establishment, **National Committees** and **impartial project evaluation** seen as mechanisms to achieve this aim.



Ethical project evaluation

*"Comprehensive project evaluation, taking into account **ethical considerations in the use of animals**, forms the core of project authorisation and should ensure the implementation of principles of replacement, reduction and refinement in those projects."*

- **Article 38 (2d)** *The project evaluation must consist of: a harm-benefit analysis of the project, to assess whether the harm to the animals in terms of suffering, pain and distress is justified by the expected outcome **taking into account ethical considerations**, and may ultimately benefit human beings, animals or the environment.*



The global dimension: developing international cooperation

- **Bilateral cooperation** via *Free Trade Agreements or cooperation forums (Chile, Canada, Brazil, NZ, Australia, South Korea, Peru and Colombia, Central America etc.)*
- **Multilateral cooperation** with *World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) and FAO*
- **Neighbourhood policies and OIE regional platform** *for animal welfare in Europe*
- **Better Training for Safer Food** *program, regional workshops involving public officials: 237 participants from over 30 countries, more than 2000 vets trained on animal welfare*

Regulation (EC) 1007/2009 on the trade in seal products



- **Bans trade in seal products** in the EU, both for imported and EU products (with exception of indigenous communities)
- Challenged by Canada and Norway at WTO level in 2010

➔ **WTO upheld EU's right** to ban seal products twice, in 2013 and after appeal in 2014, on the ground of **public morality: commercial sealing poses inherent risk to animal welfare**

Ruling is significant: trade bans can legitimately be used to protect AW. **Future possibility** for trade restrictions of other low welfare practices?



The protection of animals transported outside EU borders



April 2015- Judgment in Case C-424/13: Zuchtvieh-Export GmbH v Stadt Kempten

- In the case of a long journey of animals departing from the EU and with destination in a third country, the journey log must contain the necessary information on watering and feeding intervals and journey times as well as resting periods not only on the territory of the EU **but also for the extra-Union leg of the journey.**
- In checking whether the journey log submitted by the organiser is realistic and indicates compliance with the EU animal transport rules, the competent authority has a **certain margin of discretion** allowing it to take due account of the uncertainties involved in a long journey, part of which is to take place in the territory of third countries.
- Should the **law or administrative practice of a third country preclude full compliance** with the animal welfare requirements, a transport planning that safeguards the welfare of the animals at a **level equivalent** to the technical rules laid down in Regulation 1/2005 can be accepted by the competent authority.



Priorities of EU international animal welfare activities

- Achieving **international awareness on animal protection**
- **Developing a mutual understanding** on AW and actively contribute to the development of standards at international level
- **Sharing of technical information and research:** key elements in helping to disseminate information on AW science which is rapidly expanding
- **Create/maintain dialogue** in multilateral fora

Thank you for your attention!

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