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| From: | Presidency |
| To: | Delegations |
| Subject: | AOB item for the meeting of the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council of 11 and 12 December 2025: Outcome of the High-Level Conference on Welfare of Farm Animals in the EU of 2050 (Brussels, 1 December 2025) <i>- Information from the Presidency</i> |

On 1 December 2025, the Danish Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries hosted the High-Level Conference *Welfare of Farm Animals in the EU of 2050 – A Pathway to the Future*, in co-operation with the European Commission, in Brussels, Belgium. The conference was held as part of the Danish Presidency, reflecting that animal welfare is a key priority.

The conference gathered senior policymakers, academic experts and relevant stakeholders to explore how the future of farm animal welfare across the European Union can be shaped towards 2050. The aim was to promote shared understanding and forward-looking strategies to ensure that high animal welfare standards continue to be a defining strength of the European Union.

The key-note speakers at the conference were the Danish Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr. Jacob Jensen, and the Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare, Mr. Olivér Várhelyi. The Danish Minister highlighted the importance of improving animal welfare in the EU through harmonized EU legislation on the basis of dialogue with stakeholders. The Commissioner outlined the Commission's work on animal welfare, referring to the *Vision for Agriculture and Food*, which is expected to shape the animal welfare agenda in the EU in the coming years. Professor in Animal Science, Temple Grandin, presented practical ways to improve animal welfare going forward as the final key-note speaker.

The conference featured two panel discussions. The first panel addressed where farm animal production should be headed in the future, focusing on improving animal welfare while ensuring a resilient livestock production. Building upon this debate, the second panel examined better market returns on welfare investments and the roles of different stakeholders throughout the production chain. Both panels consisted of stakeholders with different views on how best to improve animal welfare while limiting economic burdens on operators.

The main take-aways from the conference were the following:

- Public awareness on farm animal welfare has increased over the past decade. This creates new demands for action and to align EU legislation with expectations from consumers while limiting administrative burdens.
- The European Union should continue to show the pathway for animal welfare globally by setting high standards, while ensuring a competitive and resilient agricultural production.
- New initiatives regarding farm animal welfare should be grounded in dialogue among stakeholders across the entire food chain and based on the latest scientific evidence.
- Technological developments, digitalisation and animal welfare indicators can play a key role in the future for farm animal welfare. It is therefore important to support innovation, share experiences and support the implementation of solutions.
- To maintain the strength of EU animal welfare policy, all actors across the food supply chain must assume responsibility.