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NOTE

From: Presidency

To: Working Party of Chief Veterinary Officers

Subject: Animal Welfare - an integral part of sustainable animal production
- *Outcome of the Presidency questionnaire*

Delegations will find in the Annex a presentation on the outcome of the Presidency questionnaire on animal welfare¹.

¹ This presentation was already distributed to delegations in WK 10102/2019 REV 1.

Outcome of the Presidency Questionnaire

Animal Welfare - an integral part of sustainable animal production

Introduction

The Finnish Presidency decided to raise the future of animal welfare for further discussion, especially because the new Commission is about to begin its new term of office. The discussion on the future measures was initiated in the Working Party of Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) 15th - 16th July, 2019 in Brussels based on a Presidency background document (WK 8199/2019) and on a separate document on animal transport introduced by the Austrian delegation (WK 8207/2019). After that discussion the Presidency sent to all CVOs a webropol questionnaire intended to identify their expectations for the future in the field of animal welfare: how to ensure high standards of animal welfare and respond to consumer's expectations, while ensuring the competitiveness of European agriculture. In total, 25 answers were received and they were presented for the Member States in the CVO meeting on 25-27 September 2019, in Helsinki. A short summary of those answers is presented below, structured to correspond to each section of interests indicated in the questionnaire. Please note that not all the MS provided answers to all of the questions, and therefore the total numbers of MS may differ in the summary or in the figures for various questions.

Outcomes of the questionnaire

1. Developing EU animal welfare legislation

A large majority of the respondents (88%, 22/25) considered that the existing EU animal welfare legislation is not comprehensive enough and 84% (21/25) thought that there is need for additional legislation where no detailed legislation currently exists. Moreover, 63% (15/24) of the respondents supported the idea of a single EU animal welfare law, in parallel to the Animal Health Law and covering all animal species in the context of economic activity.

Regulation of the following sectors, which currently have no detailed legislation on animal welfare, was considered very important or important (n=21): dairy cattle (76% of the respondents), different types of poultry (laying hen breeders 57% and broiler breeders 57%, pullets 48%, turkeys 48%, ducks and geese 43%), beef cattle (52%), farmed rabbits (48%) and farmed fish (38%). Regulation on sheep and goats was considered very important or important by 19% of the respondents. In addition, horses were mentioned several times in open-text answers.

A majority of the respondents (79%, 19/24) also saw a need for EU-level regulation on the welfare of dogs and cats involved in commercial practices either as independent animal welfare legislation or as part of wider legislation including for instance health and identification.

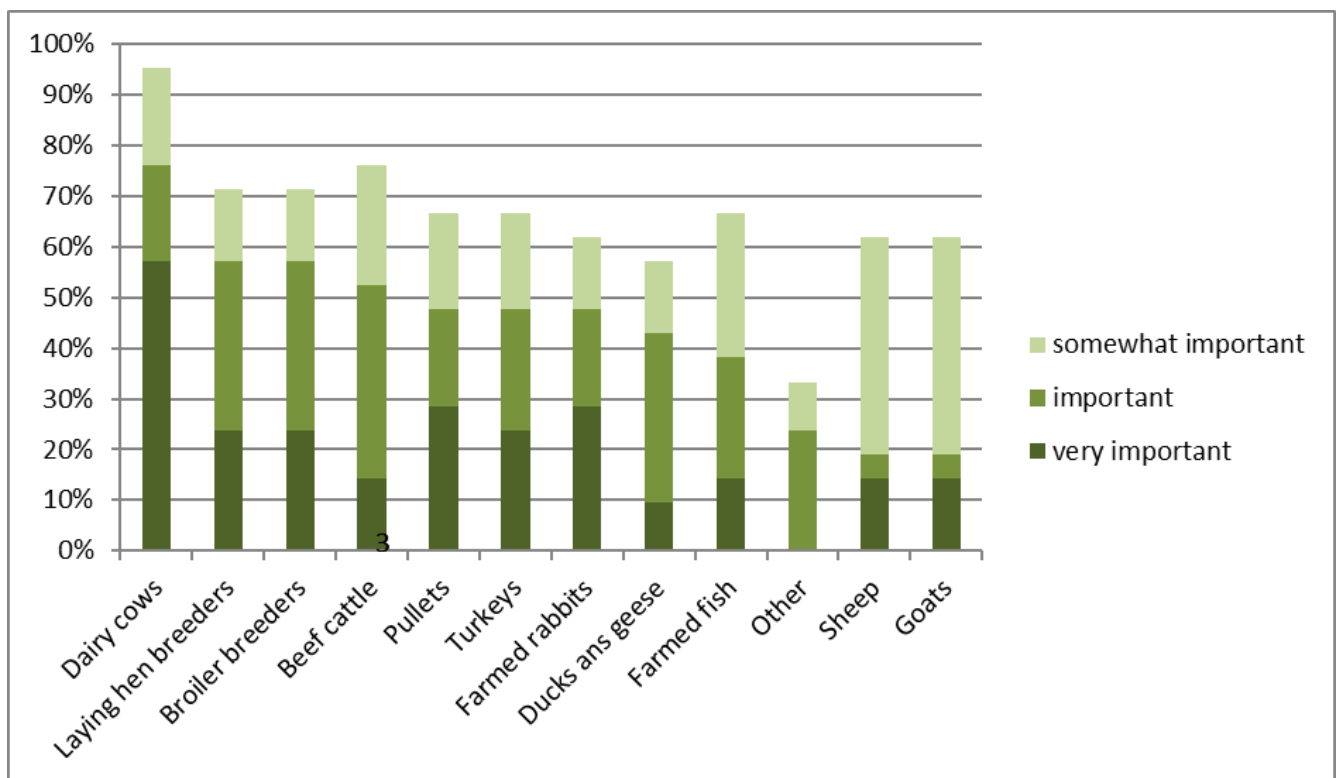


Figure 1. Which sectors do you feel are the most important to regulate? (N=21)

In open-text comments some respondents mentioned specifically the need to legislate cross-border trade of companion animals but also identification of dogs and cats, amputations such as ear cropping and tail docking and the extreme breeding of dogs and cats. Some respondents also pointed out a need for harmonized legislation concerning the use of wild animals in entertainment purposes such as circuses.

A majority of the respondents felt that there should be amendments to one or more of the existing legal acts on animal welfare (84% of the respondents, 21/25). Most of them considered that there was a need to make amendments to Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 (transport, 90%, 18/20), Council Directive 2008/120/EC (pigs, 65%, 13/20) and Council Directive 98/58/EC (animals kept for farming purposes, 45%, 9/20). In addition, some delegations considered that there was a need to amend all of the legislative acts referred to in the question.

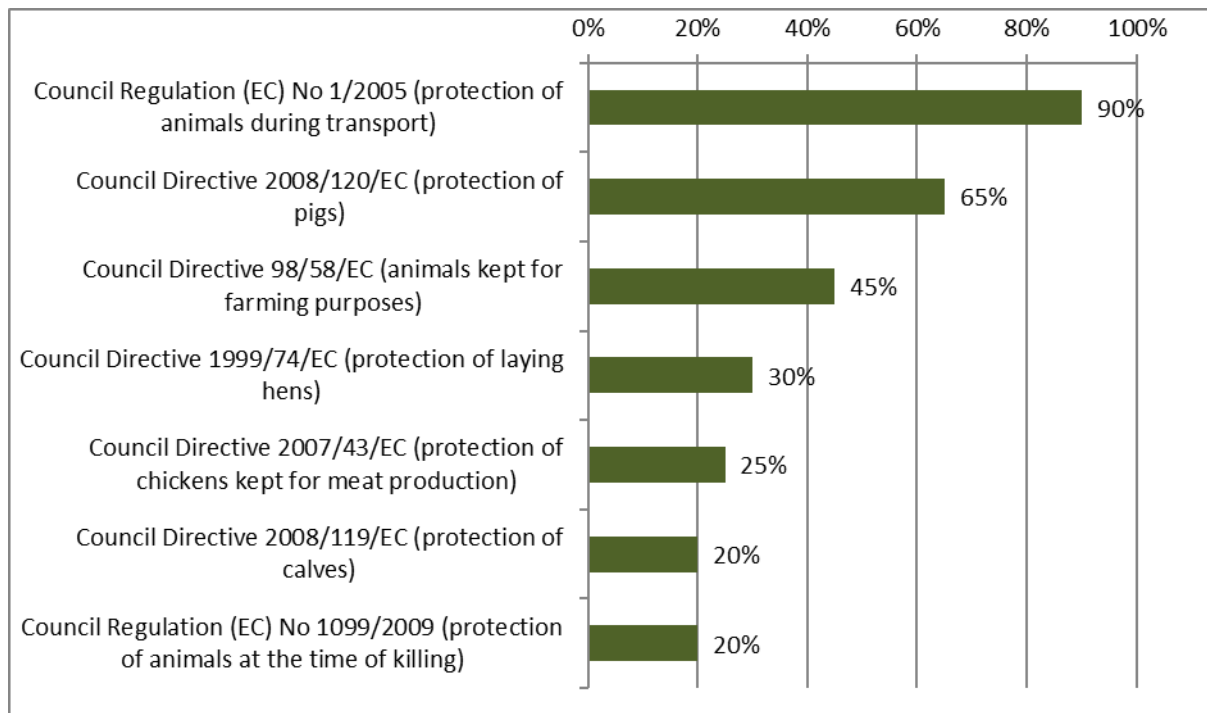


Figure 2. Which pieces of legislation do you feel need to be amended? (N=20)

In general, respondents emphasised that legislation should be reviewed regularly. Their majority were of a view that amendments should take into account latest scientific evidence and address especially those areas, in which practical experience has identified enforcement problems due to vague or overly general provisions. Provisions that were too general were mentioned as one of the reasons for a need to revise Council Directive 98/58. Many respondents suggested specific amendments needed to revise Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. These included the definition of economic activity; journey times, including a maximum time for slaughter animals and unweaned animals; space allowances; ambient climatic conditions; internal height in the transport vehicle; and watering and feeding intervals. Provisions aimed at reducing the number of tail-docked pigs were mentioned as a reason to amend Council Directive 2008/120/EC. A wish to ban fur farming was mentioned in one response.

2. Enforcement of existing EU animal welfare legislation

A majority of the respondents (84%, 21/25) identified some obstacles that have made compliance with animal welfare legislation difficult. Out of the reasons that were given as examples in the questionnaire unclear regulation was considered as relevant or very relevant by 67% of the respondents and the attitude of operators and farmers by 52%. Insufficient knowledge among operators and farmers, lack of control results or direct financial constraints were reported as very relevant or relevant reason for non-compliance by 43%, 29% and 24% of the respondents, respectively.

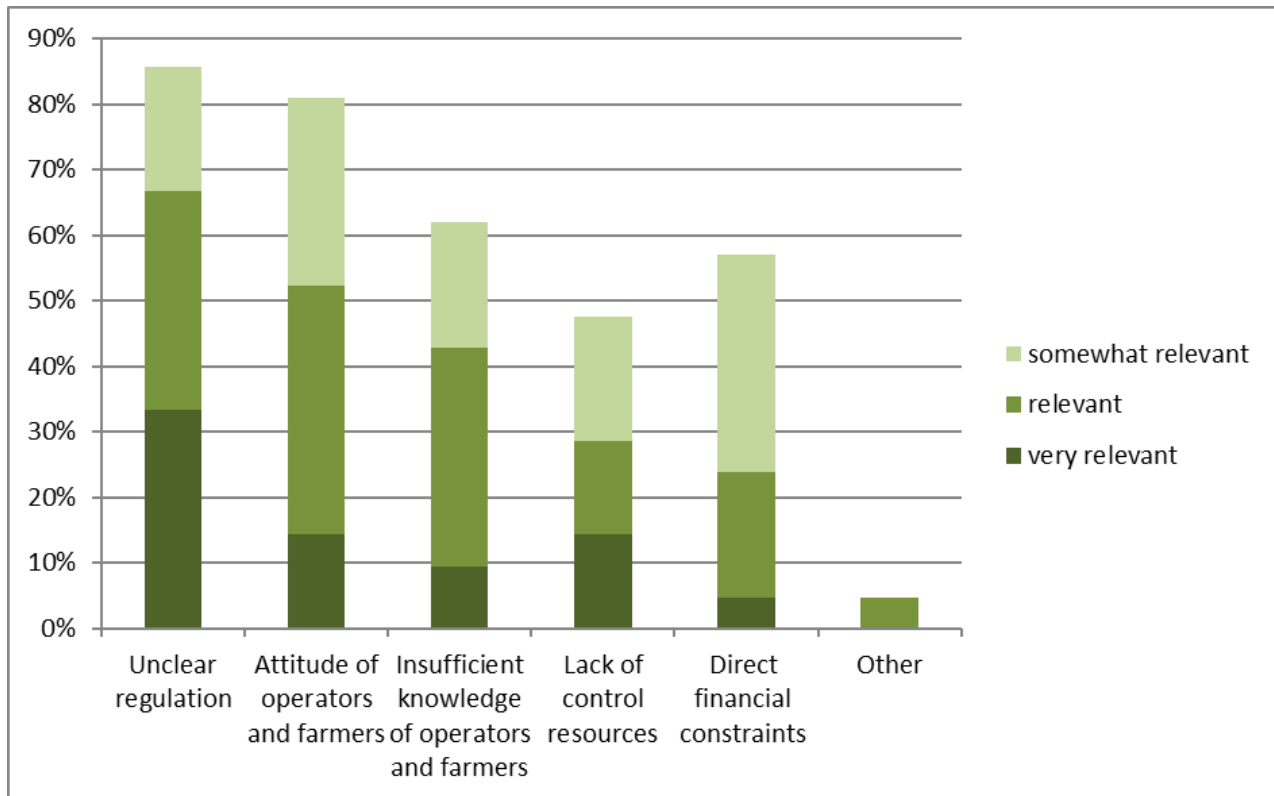


Figure 3. What are the main reasons for the lack of compliance in your country? (N=21)

Enforcement methods such as national controls (88%) and audits (76%) and EU audits (80%) were considered to be very effective or effective tools. Also national training (84%) and BTSF training (76%) were recognized as very effective or effective instruments in improving the enforcement of EU animal welfare legislation. In addition, National Contact Point (NCP) networks seem to have an important role: 76% of the respondents saw these networks as a very effective or effective tool to improve enforcement. Voluntary actions, such as assurance schemes, market driven welfare standards, NGO work on welfare issues and research projects were also mentioned.

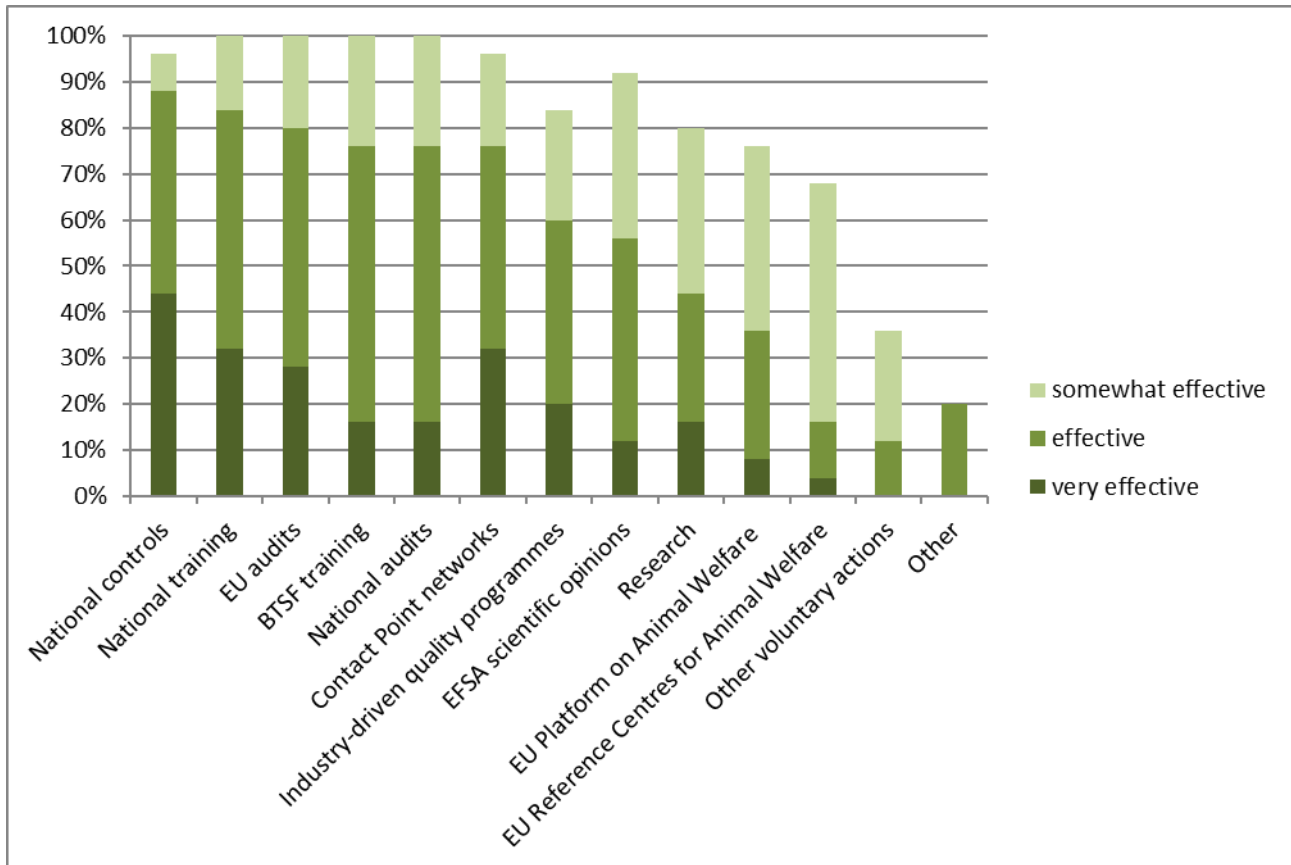


Figure 4. What instruments do you consider effective in improving the enforcement of EU animal welfare legislation? (N=25)

3. EU Platform on Animal Welfare

EU Platform on Animal Welfare was considered useful by a majority of the respondents (96%, 23/24). The Platform was thought especially useful in promoting animal welfare by fostering dialogue between competent authorities, businesses, civil society, scientists and international intergovernmental organisations, promoting the exchange of experiences and good practices, scientific knowledge and innovations and sharing information on policy developments in the work of the Platform.

A majority of respondents (91%, 21/23) also wanted the platform to continue to operate in the future. Among the priorities for the future work of the platform, the following were mentioned: sea and road transport of animals, guidelines for farm animals such as dairy and beef cattle, sheep and goats, turkeys, farmed rabbits and farmed deer, discussion on alternative slaughtering methods, welfare of pet animals and puppy trade. A discussion on the concept of the platform was also requested, as there is uncertainty about how to better make use of the outputs of the platform and the materials prepared by it so far and there is a need to agree how their delivery should be arranged. Some respondents also mentioned that it was too early to draw final conclusions on the usefulness of the platform and we should wait for the results of the external evaluation.

4. EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

The tasks and responsibilities of EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare are described in the Official Controls Regulation (EU) 2017/625. When asked how the reference centres could best serve the authorities, some respondents suggested that the centres could provide science-based factsheets, guidelines, interpretations and best practices to facilitate implementation of EU animal welfare legislation. Guidance was seen especially important on areas where there are enforcement problems due to imprecise provisions and on those areas, where there are gaps in legislation. According to some respondents the centres could also identify problems in enforcement and suggest action plans to tackle these as well as identify areas where future EU-legislation should focus on. Developing scientifically based animal welfare indicators to support enforcement and proposing requirements for a possible animal welfare label were suggested by some respondents as future tasks for the centres. Many other responded that the tasks of the reference centres are already sufficiently covered in the Regulation.

Dairy cows (84%) and transport (76%) were considered the most relevant sectors (very relevant or relevant, n=25) for the future reference centres. Other sectors perceived as very relevant or relevant were beef cattle (60%), calves (60%), killing and slaughter (56%) and farmed fish (52%). Pets and horses were also mentioned in the open-text field answers.

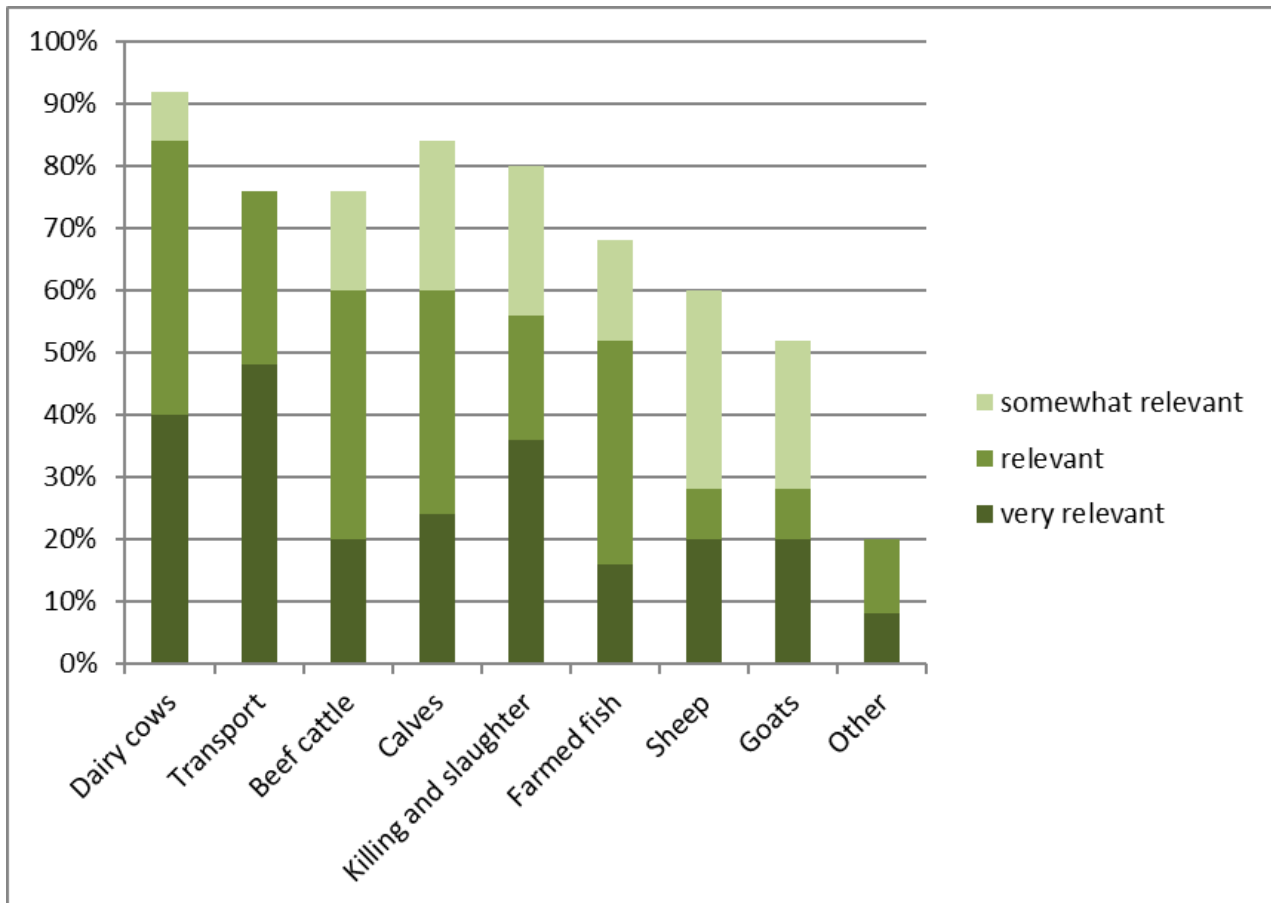


Figure 5. For which sectors should EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare be established in the near future to support the enforcement of animal welfare legislation? (N=25)

5. Animal welfare and global trade

Animal welfare should have a more central role in EU and third country negotiations according to 92% of respondents (agree or strongly agree, 22/24). The Member States should coordinate their efforts and funding of animal welfare outside the EU better (agree or strongly agree; 56% of respondents, 14/25).

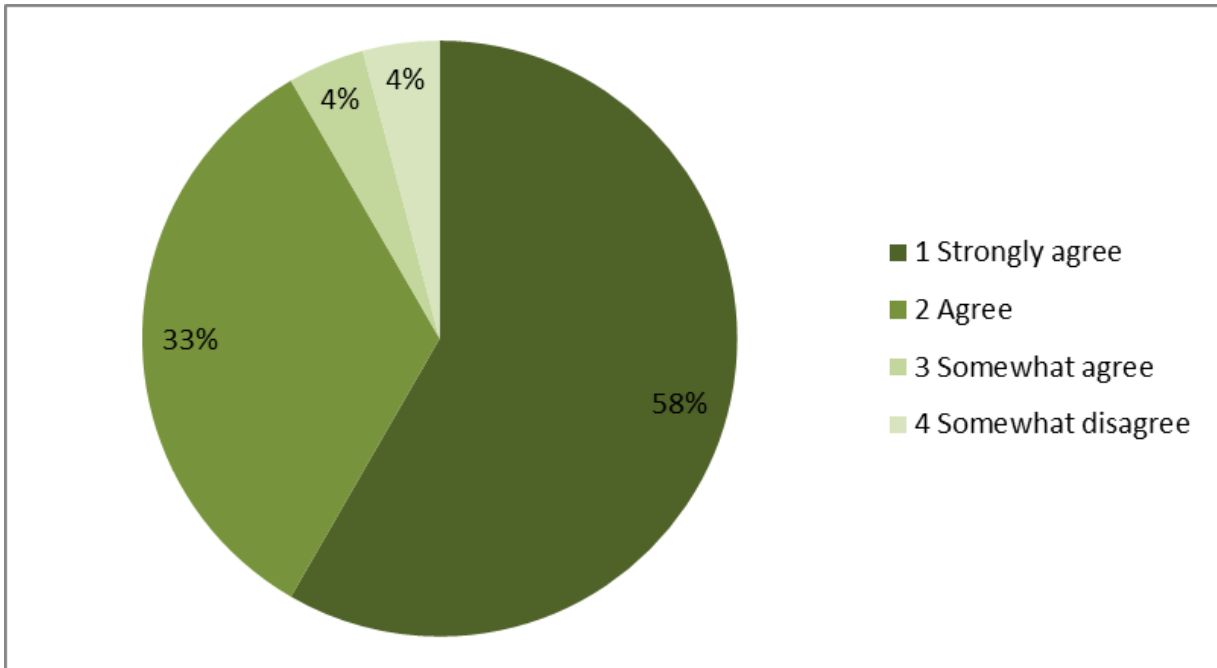


Figure 6. In the context of EU and third country trade negotiations, animal welfare should have a more central role (N=24)

Regarding the EU's international activities the importance of animal welfare during transport and slaughter related to export and import was raised in many open-text answers. In addition, some respondents pointed out the need for active work to include animal welfare requirements in multilateral trade agreements, such as SPS, FTAs including the EU-Mercosur Agreement. Some respondents also considered it important to work with the OIE to raise global standards and to promote more consistent enforcement of its recommendations. One respondent pointed out that depending on the relevant third country's own background in relation to animal welfare standards, Member States could focus on training (e.g. through twinning) or networking to share best practices.

Several respondents considered that the EU and the Member States should direct their international activities towards their main trade partners in the Middle East, Africa, Eastern Europe, Asia. Moreover, respondents considered these could together optimise and support the EU's bilateral and multilateral activities to include the One Health approach (as mentioned by one respondent) and other animal welfare standards equivalent to the EU's standards. The highest priority animals for the most respondents were pigs, laying hens and broiler chickens.

6. EU animal welfare label

Respondents supported an animal welfare labelling scheme (83%, 19/23); 43% (10/23) considered that it would be enough to provide guidance for labelling, while 39% (9/23) supported the idea of regulatory labelling. A common scheme on welfare labelling was considered unnecessary by 17% (4/23) of the respondents. The majority (83%, 15/18) wanted to see the minimum standards exceeded, while 17% (3/18) thought that compliance with minimum standards is enough. Among the respondents multilevel labels were preferred to one-level labels (54%, 13/24, vs 29%, 7/24, of the respondents). Dairy cows or beef cattle would be best suited (very important or important) for welfare labelling according to 78% and 61% of the respondents (n=23), respectively. Broiler production could also be a suitable sector for welfare labelling according to 57% of the respondents as could laying hens (39%) and farmed fish (39%). Labelling for pork production was raised in some open answers, as it was unfortunately missing from the alternatives provided. The pork might have received more support if it had had been included among the alternatives originally. A majority of the respondents (87%, 20/23) would prefer the welfare labelling scheme to be voluntary for producers. The welfare labelling scheme should cover the animal's whole life span (from birth to death; 88% of the respondents considered this relevant or very relevant, n=24); having a labelling scheme covering only the time animals are kept on a farm was preferred over the scheme covering only transport and slaughter (relevant or very relevant for 42% vs. 33% of the respondents).

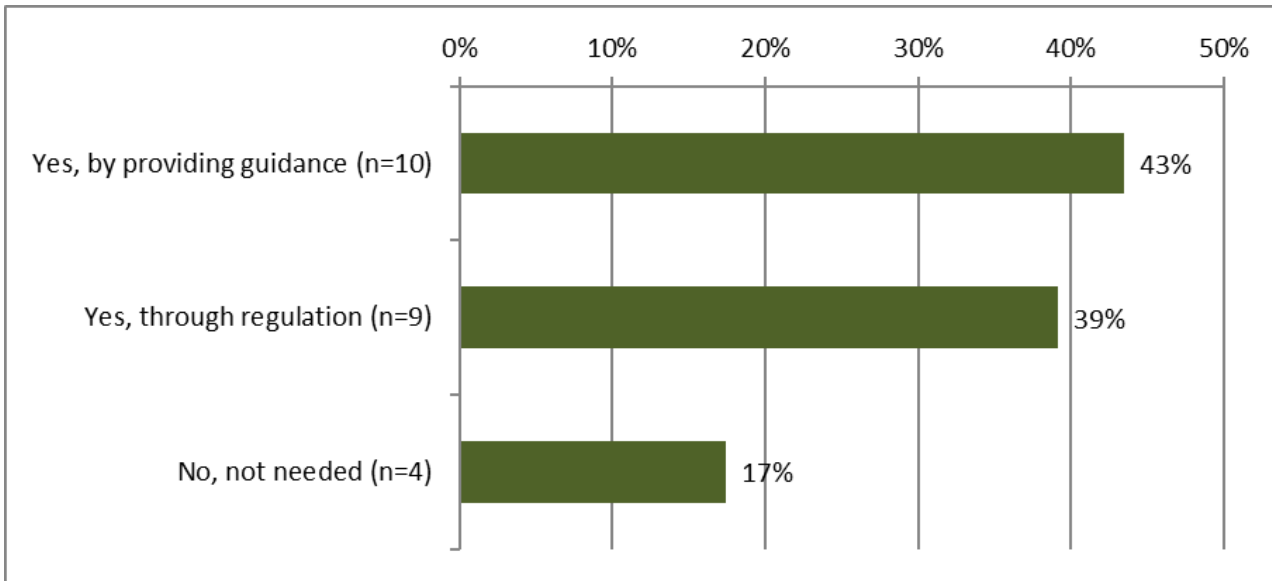


Figure 7. Should the EU create a common animal welfare labelling scheme for animal products to inform consumers or otherwise regulate labelling? (N=23)

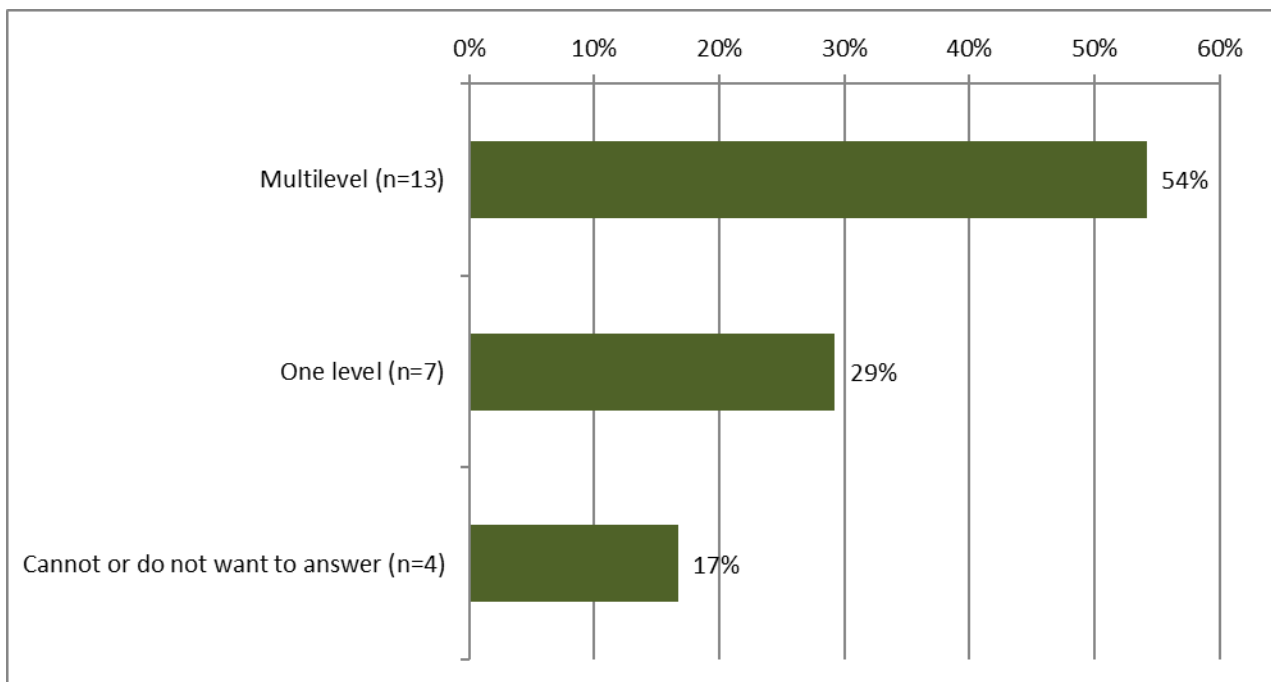


Figure 8. Should there be only one level of an EU animal welfare labelling scheme or should the system be multilevel? (N=24)

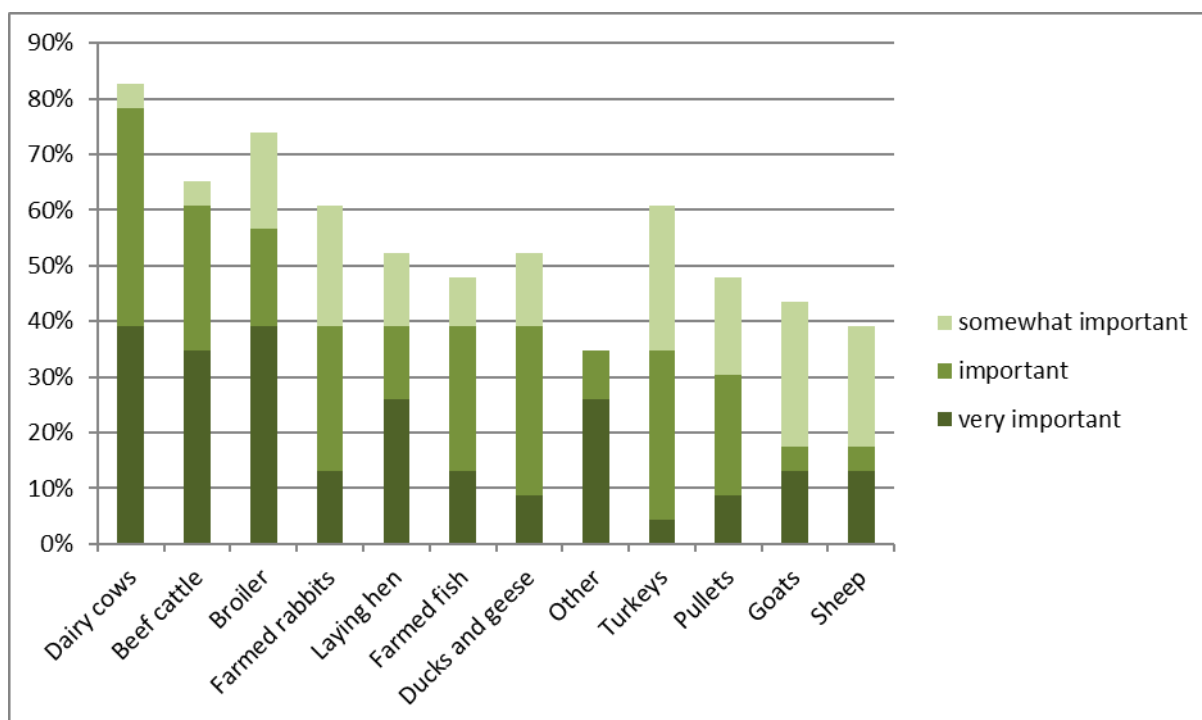


Figure 9. Which animal products from the following animal species would be best suited for EU animal welfare labelling? (N=23)

Giving consumers' the opportunity to make choices when purchasing animal-based products was considered an important tool for promoting animal welfare by many respondents. However, several of them emphasised that the key point here is to make it easy for the consumer to make informed choices. Labelling was seen by many as a useful tool to increase knowledge of farm animal welfare in the EU. The role of the retail sector in promoting animal welfare was recognised by most of the respondents in their open-text answers. They considered that the retail sector plays a key role in promoting animal welfare, because it communicates directly with consumers. On the other hand, the complex position of the retail sector was also pointed out by some: their objective to make a profit can override their efforts to do good. Furthermore, it should be ensured that the costs incurred due to higher standards are shared in a responsible manner across the whole food chain. In addition, several respondents thought it essential that the information given to consumers should be valid and correct in order to maintain their confidence. Moreover, as one respondent pointed out, developing a labelling system calls for cooperation between all relevant stakeholders, including the retail sector.

7. Common Agricultural Policy instruments

A majority (71%, 17/24) of the respondents were involved in the development of agricultural policy, and wished to be even more closely involved (87%, 20/23, thought CVOs should be more involved in the process). Most (88%, 21/24) of the Member States according to the respondents supported animal welfare measures through the CAP; most often this should be carried out in the form of investment aid (76% of respondents, 16/21), while animal welfare payments and farm advisory service were slightly less favoured (67%, 14/21, and 57%, 12/21, of respondents, respectively). When CAP was used to support animal welfare, it was usually considered effective (35%, 8/23) or somewhat effective (39%, 9/23). National targets for improving animal welfare through the use of CAP were set by 41% (9/22) of the respondents, while (only) 30% (6/20) of the respondents had carried out external assessments of the effectiveness of the animal welfare measures. However, one respondent considered that an unbalanced situation arises if there is national animal welfare legislation that goes beyond EU legislation and CAP measures have to go beyond both. The respondent was concerned that not only does this create an uneven playing field, but it can also hinder the further development of national animal welfare legislation.

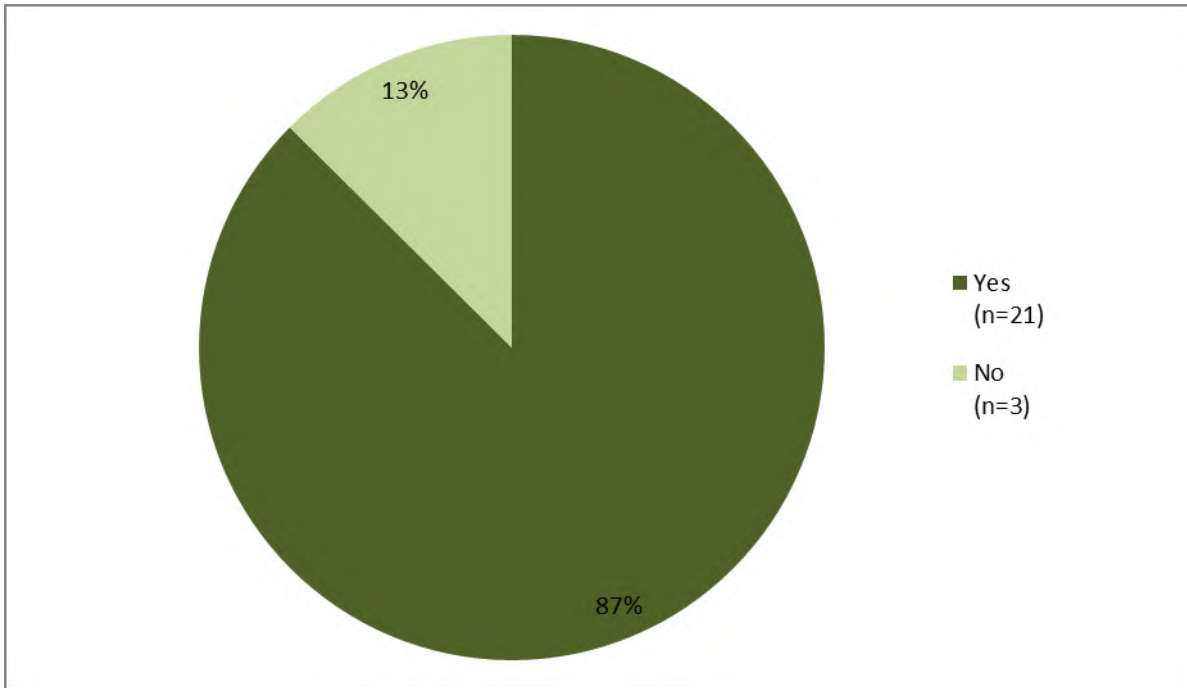


Figure 10. Has your country supported animal welfare through the CAP (rural development programmes)? (N=24)

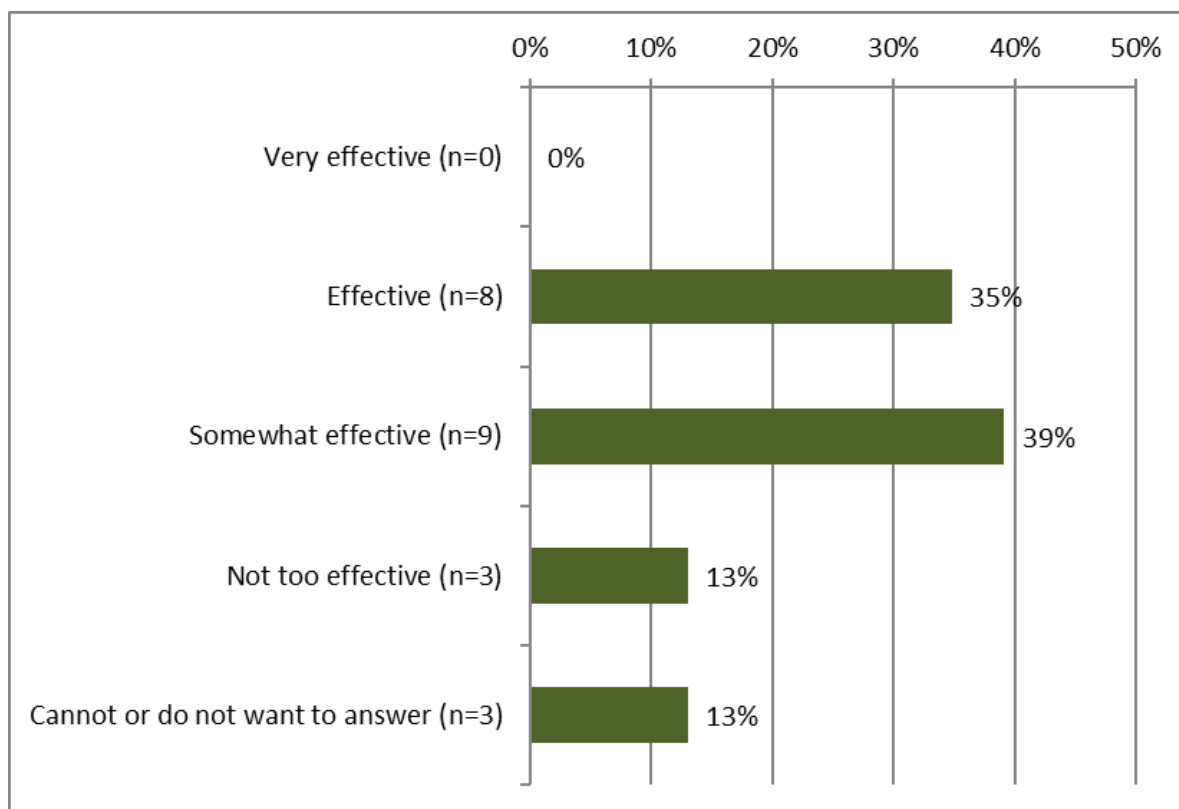


Figure 11. Do you believe that the animal welfare measures (in the rural development programmes) you have indicated have been effective in promoting animal welfare? (N=23)

8. Strategic way forward

The EU Animal Welfare Strategy 2012-2015 was generally considered sufficiently ambitious. However, a majority of the respondents (88%, 22/25) considered that a new welfare strategy is needed identifying a list of actions to be carried out. In their open-text answers the respondents listed several ideas for a future strategy. These included promoting better and more uniform enforcement of the EU legislation, a framework law on animal welfare, training of both authorities and farmers, assessment of areas where current legislation lacks specific provisions, the need for an update of the current animal welfare legislation, especially Regulation 1/2005, and more focus on intensive production systems. Furthermore, areas proposed by the respondents as requiring special attention included the welfare of pigs (tail-docking, castration) and that of cats and dogs. Moreover, some respondents pointed out that scientific advice should be reflected in regulation and guidance.

9. Animal transport

A majority of the respondents (72%, 18/25) identified a need to improve the governance procedure for dealing with long-distance transport. The CVO group was very firmly (96 % of the respondents, 22/23) considered to have a role in improving governance procedures, mainly by addressing major issues and trying to find solutions in case of disagreements. According to the respondents Member States use national measures (legislation, guidance or other arrangements) to improve animal welfare during transport (1. measures concerning extreme temperatures 91%, 21/23, 2. approval of trucks 57%, 13/23, and journey logs 57%, 13/23). In addition, harmonised definition of economic activity or internal heights, legislation/guidance on the fitness for travel or limiting the transport time and national measures for navigation systems were available in some Member States.

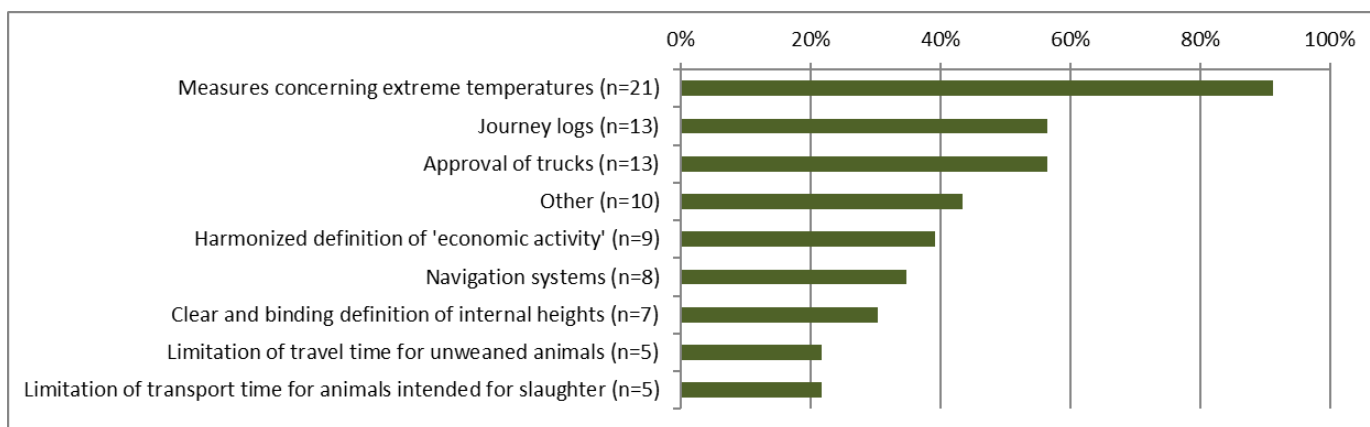


Figure 12. What national measures (legislation, guidance) or other arrangements are already in place or will be implemented in the Member States to improve the animal welfare situation during animal transport? (N=23)

The essential role of NCPs in enforcement of Regulation 1/2005 was emphasised strongly in open-text answers. However, the respondents also expressed need for improvement. Long distance transport calls for the rapid exchange of information and availability of NCPs is essential. Some open-text answers proposed 24-hour service as a solution.

A database was considered useful to support the work of the NCP network. The NCP network currently uses CIRCABC which according to some respondents should be made more user-friendly. Furthermore, one respondent considered the Commission should update the NCP list with sufficient regularity. Moreover, respondents pointed out that there is a need for stricter corrective measures and exchange of information on non-compliances between competent authorities. They saw the Commission working group and the NCP sub-group as the best way to support the revision of Regulation 1/2005 and the development of a technical opinion. Some respondents chose both of these options.

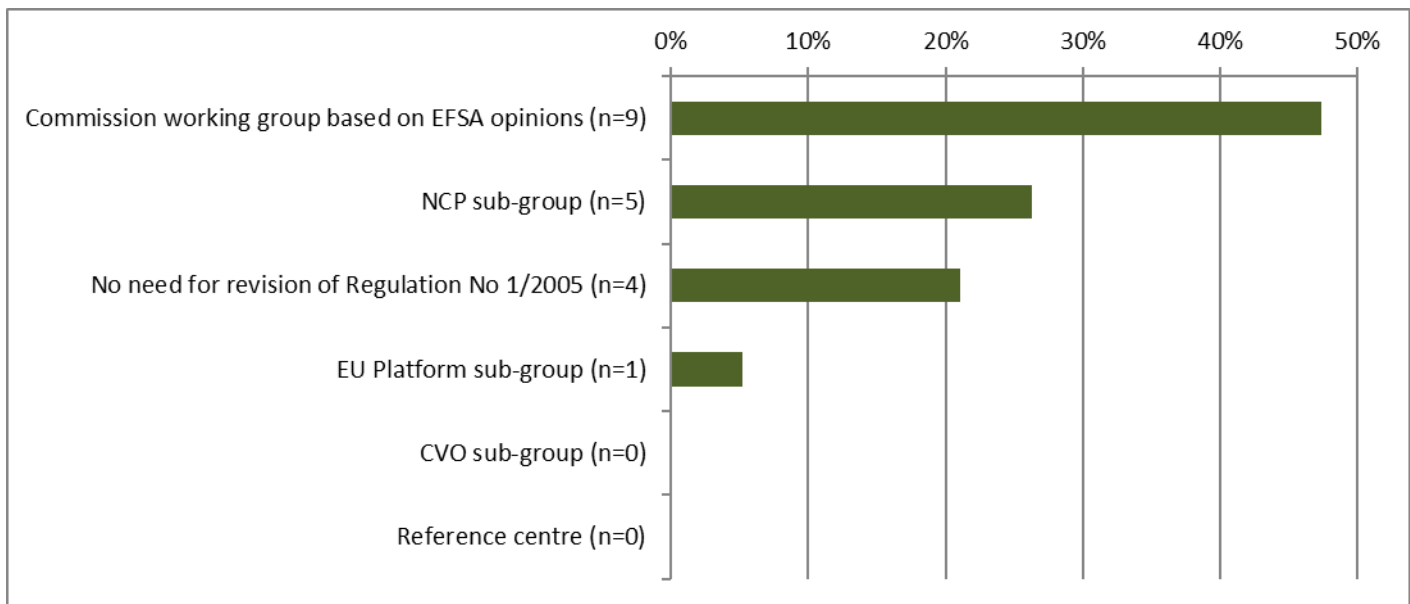


Figure 13. In your opinion, what is the best way to support the revision of EU Regulation No 1/2005 and the development of a technical opinion? (N=19)

Further considerations

Many respondents clearly recognized the need for a debate on fundamental principles. In addition to the examples of ethical issues described in the questionnaire, many respondents suggested other issues, such as slaughter of pregnant animals, killing of day-old chicks and transport of unweaned animals and end-of-lay hens. Various options were mentioned as forums for such discussions; the European Parliament, the Agriculture and Fisheries Council, CVO meetings, the EU Platform on Animal Welfare, special working groups, conferences, workshops and national animal welfare councils. Some respondents also mentioned that political will and discussions on a political level are needed to change practices in profitable businesses such as live animal transport to third countries.

ANIMAL WELFARE MEASURES - QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Developing EU animal welfare legislation

1.1 In your opinion, is the animal welfare legislation at the EU level comprehensive enough at this stage?

Yes

No

1.2 If no, do you see a need to enact new legislation at the EU level for those sectors where no legislation currently exists, such as for dairy cows and farmed fish?

Yes

No

1.3 If yes, which sectors do you feel are the most important to regulate?

Tick a number from 1 to 5 indicating how important it is to you to enact new welfare regulations for each of the production sectors.

	1 Very important	2 Important	3 Somewhat important	4 May be important	5 Not too important	Cannot answer or do not want to answer
Dairy cows (other than calves)						
Beef cattle (other than calves)						
Sheep						

Goats						
Farmed rabbits						
Farmed fish						
Laying hen breeders						
Pullets						
Broiler breeders						
Ducks and geese						
Turkeys						
Other, specify: _____						

1.4 Do you see a need for amendments to older EU animal welfare legislation?

Yes

No

1.5 If yes, which pieces of legislation do you feel need to be amended? Tick all that apply

Council Directive 98/58/EC (animals kept for farming purposes)

Council Directive 2008/120/EC (protection of pigs)

Council Directive 2008/119/EC (protection of calves)

Council Directive 1999/74/EC (protection of laying hens)

Council Directive 2007/43/EC (protection of chickens kept for meat production)

Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 (protection of animals during transport)

Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 (protection of animals at the time of killing)

Additional comments

1.6 Do you believe that there should be an EU animal welfare law in parallel to the Animal Health Law to cover all animal species in the context of an economic activity, at least at a general level?

Yes

No

1.7. Do you see the need for an EU-level regulation on the welfare of dogs and cats involved in commercial practices?

Yes

No

2. Enforcement of existing EU animal welfare legislation

2.1 Have you identified specific obstacles that make the compliance with the animal welfare legislation in your country difficult?

Yes

No

2.2 If yes, what are the main reasons for the lack of compliance in your country? Tick a number from 1 to 5 indicating how relevant each of the reasons are.

	1 Very relevant	2 Relevant	3 Somewhat relevant	4 May be relevant	5 Not too relevant	Cannot answer or do not want to answer
Unclear regulation						
Insufficient knowledge of operators and farmers						
Lack of control resources						
Direct financial constraints						
Attitude of operators and farmers (e.g. they believe that others are not following the rules)						
Other, please specify: _____						

2.3 What instruments do you consider effective in improving the enforcement of EU animal welfare legislation? Tick a number from 1 to 5 indicating how effective you think each of the instruments is.

	1 Very effective	2 Effective	3 Somewhat effective	4 Not very effective	5 Not effective	Cannot answer or do not want to answer
Research						
BTSF training						
National training						
EU Platform on Animal Welfare						
Contact point networks						
EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare						
EFSA scientific opinions						
EU audits						
National audits						
National controls						

Industry-driven quality programmes						
Other voluntary actions focusing on certain aspects, such as ...						
Other, please specify: _____						

3. EU Platform on Animal Welfare

3.1 Do you consider that the EU Platform on Animal Welfare is a useful tool for promoting animal welfare?

Yes

No

3.2 If yes, how has the EU Platform on Animal Welfare been useful in promoting animal welfare?

Tick a number from 1 to 5 indicating how useful you think each of the effects is.

	1 Very useful	2 Useful	3 Somewhat useful	4 May be useful	5 Not too useful	Cannot answer or do not want to answer
Improvements in enforcement						
Better understanding of EU legislation and international standards						

Facilitation of voluntary commitments by businesses						
Promotion of EU standards and products at global level						
Fostering of dialogue between competent authorities, businesses, civil society, academia, scientists and international intergovernmental organisations						
Promotion of the exchange of experiences and good practices, scientific knowledge and innovations						
Sharing of information on policy developments in the work of the Platform						
Other, please specify: _____						

3.3 In your opinion, should the operations of the Platform continue in the upcoming term of office?

Yes

No

3.4 If the tasks of the EU Platform for Animal Welfare were to continue, do you have special priorities for themes or species to be dealt with? Please specify below:

4. EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare

4.1 How do you think the EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare could best serve the authorities?

4.2 For which sectors should EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare be established in the near future to support the enforcement of animal welfare legislation? Tick a number from 1 to 5 indicating how relevant you think each of the sectors is.

	1 Very relevant	2 Relevant	3 Somewhat relevant	4 May be relevant	5 Not too relevant	Cannot answer or do not want to answer
Dairy cows						
Beef cattle						
Calves						
Sheep						
Goats						
Farmed fish						
Transport						
Killing and slaughter						
Other, please specify: _____						

5. Animal welfare and global trade

5.1 In the context of EU and third country trade negotiations, animal welfare should have a more central role

(Tick a number from 1 to 6 indicating how strongly you agree with the statement.)

1 Strongly agree

2 Agree

3 Somewhat agree

4 Somewhat disagree

5 Disagree

6 Strongly disagree

5.2 The Member States should better coordinate their own efforts and funding to support animal welfare outside the EU.

(Tick a number from 1 to 6 indicating how strongly you agree with the statement.)

1 Strongly agree

2 Agree

3 Somewhat agree

4 Somewhat disagree

5 Disagree

6 Strongly disagree

5.3 On which areas of animal welfare should the EU and the Member States focus their international activities?

5.4 In which regions of the world should the EU and the Member States focus their international activities?

5.5 Is there something more that the EU and Member States could do together to optimise and support the EU's bilateral and multilateral activities at international level in order to ensure the global competitiveness of EU operators? Please specify:

6. EU animal welfare label

6.1 Should the EU create a common animal welfare labelling scheme for animal products to inform consumers?

Yes, through regulation

Yes, by providing guidance

No, not needed

6.2 If yes, what should be the requirement for animal welfare labelled products

a. Compliance with the minimum standards is sufficient.

b. Exceedance of the minimum standards should be required.

6.3 Should there be only one level of an EU animal welfare labelling scheme or should the system be multilevel?

One level

Multilevel

Cannot answer or do not want to answer

6.4 Which animal products would be best suited for EU animal welfare labelling? Tick a number from 1 to 5 indicating how important it is to you to enact EU animal welfare labelling for each of the production sectors.

Production sector	1 Very important	2 Important	3 Somewhat important	4 May be needed	5 Not too important	Cannot answer or do not want to answer
Dairy cows (other than calves)						
Beef cattle (other than calves)						
Sheep						
Goats						
Farmed rabbits						
Farmed fish						
Laying hen breeders						
Pullets						
Broiler breeders						
Ducks and geese						
Turkeys						
Other, specify: _____						

6.5 Should joining the EU animal welfare labelling scheme be voluntary for the producer?

Yes

No

Other comments on labelling:

6.6 Which part of the life of farm animals should the animal welfare labelling scheme cover? Tick a number from 1 to 5 indicating how relevant you think each part of the life of a farm animal is.

	1 Very relevant	2 Relevant	3 Somewhat relevant	4 May be relevant	5 Not too relevant	Cannot answer or do not want to answer
Whole life span of an animal from birth to death						
Only the time kept on a farm						
Only during transport and slaughter						
Some other time, please specify: _____						

6.7 Do you believe that the retail sector could have a relevant role in promoting animal welfare?

Please specify.

7. Common Agricultural Policy instruments

7.1 Do you participate in the development of agricultural policy in your own country?

Yes

No

7.2 In general, should the CVOs be more involved in the process at the national level?

Yes

No

7.3 Has your country supported animal welfare through the CAP (rural development programmes)?

Yes

No

If yes, please select all that apply.

Animal welfare payments

Investment support

Farm advisory service

Other, please specify:

7.4 If the answer (to question 7.3) is yes, do you believe that the animal welfare payments (in the rural development programmes) you have indicated have been effective in promoting animal welfare?

Very effective

Effective

Somewhat effective

Not too effective

Cannot answer or do not want to answer

7.5 If the answer (to question 7.3) is yes, has your country set targets at national level for improving animal welfare through the use of the CAP?

Yes

No

7.6 If the answer (to question 7.3) is yes, has your country carried out an external assessment of the effectiveness of the animal welfare measures in the CAP?

Yes

No

7.7 Do you have further comments on your country's experiences in using the rural development measures to improve animal welfare? Please specify below.

8. Strategic way forward

8.1 Did you consider the previous EU Animal Welfare Strategy 2012–2015 ...

Too ambitious

Sufficiently ambitious

Not enough ambitious

Cannot answer or do not want to answer

8.2. In your opinion, should the European Commission adopt a new EU animal welfare strategy that identifies a list of actions needed to further improve animal welfare?

Yes

No

8.3. If you believe that a new EU animal welfare strategy would be useful, what do you think should be included in the strategy?

9. Animal transport

(Please, see background memorandum WK 8207/2019 INIT)

9.1 In your opinion, taking into account the work of various fora (OIE Animal Welfare Platform, EU Platform on Animal Welfare, EU Platform sub-group on animal transport, network of national contact points (NCPs) in the Member States), is there a need to improve the governance procedures of the various platforms dealing with long-distance transport?

Yes

No

Further comments:

9.2 Can the CVO group play a role in improving these governance procedures?

Yes

No

Further comments:

9.3 What national measures (legislation, guidance) or other arrangements are already in place or will be implemented in the Member States to improve the animal welfare situation during animal transport?

Please, tick all that apply.

Measures concerning extreme temperatures

Navigation systems

Journey logs

Clear and binding definition of internal heights

Approval of trucks

Limitation of travel time for unweaned animals

Limitation of transport time for animals intended for slaughter

Harmonised definition ‘economic activity’

Other, please specify:

9.4 In your opinion, is it possible to use the NCP network for rapid exchange of information to enhance checks during transport? Please specify below:

9.5 Is there a need to establish a database (like the Circabc group used by the NCP network for animals used for scientific purposes), website or other digital tool (like the EU Animal Welfare Digital Tool) to support the work of the NCP network? Please specify below:

9.6 In your opinion, what is the best way to support the revision of EU Regulation No 1/2005 and the development of a technical opinion?

NCP sub-group

CVO sub-group

EU Platform sub-group

Reference centre

Commission working group based on EFSA opinions

No need for revision of Regulation No 1/2005

Further comments:

9.7 Do you have ideas as to how we could address the described ethical issues and how discussion of these issues could be initiated?

Ethical issues could include. for example:

- Sustainability of specialised animal production that relies heavily on animal transport (e.g. transportation of calves when it is not possible to fatten them on regional level)
- There are no limits on transportation if the time intervals are used correctly. Is it really necessary and possible to transport cattle for 10 to 14 days by truck?
- Welfare Standards in third countries are different from EU standards – could this create a conflict?
- Problems related to live animal transport vs transport of meat
- Increase in non-stun slaughter within the EU vs live animal transport to third countries

- The intention of EU Regulation No 1099/2009 to limit the number of animals slaughtered without stunning for the needs of religious communities within the EU
- The risk of marketing excess amounts of non-stun meat for regular consumers in the EU vs the need for enhanced consumer information

Please share your opinion below:
