

Miguel Ángel Higuera

President of the Copa Cogeca Working Party on Animal Health & Welfare

Public event in Interactio

31/05/2023





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Animal Welfare legislation reform proposal: a package of 4 regulations

Current legislation	New proposal 3Q2023
 On-Farm welfare Directive 58/98 - horizontal Directive 1999/74 - on laying hens Directive 2007/43 - on broilers Directive 2008/119 - on calves Directive 2008/120 - on pigs 	A single new Regulation for everything
Welfare in transport Regulation 1/2005	A m odification of the existing Regulation
Welfare at the time of killing Regulation 1099/2009	A modification of the existing Regulation
Animal Welfare Labelling • No legislation	Anew Regulation



Commission's work and decision-making process



- * Public consultation 2020-2021
- * Work of Animal Welfare Platform Subgroups: 2021-2022
- * Work with consultancy agencies: 2020-2023 (ICF, Milieu BE, EY)
- * EFSA's scientific opinions:

 √ all published
- * Delivery to Interservice consultation: on going
- * Impact assessment: Sent on 10

 May to RSB negative opinion so
 far resubmission to DG SANTE
- * First draft legislative proposals September-October 2023













Copa and Cogeca's general views on the AW legislation revision

- I. The EU in the global context: highest standards on food safety, quality, and sustainability
- II. Harmonisation of the implementation & full enforcement of the existing legal texts
- III. The reform would need:
 - I. A science-based approach
 - II. Enough time and funds for farmers to transition
- IV. The rural economy and its social fabric must be protected
- V. Consistency with other policies must be ensured (Trade, CAP, Sustainability)





Context for the study presented today

30 June 2021: EC announced policy initiative for phasing out the use of cages in EU livestock farming, following the European Citizen's initiative "End the Cage Age"

Study from 3 research institutes:

- Institute of Agricultural Economics Nonprofit Kft. (AKI, Budapest, Hungary),
- Foundation Science and Education for Agri-Food Sector (FNEA, Warsaw, Poland),
- European Centre for Agricultural, Regional and Environmental Policy Research (EuroCARE GmbH, Bonn, Germany)

→ To better understand the socioeconomic and environmental consequences of the ban of cages on the pig and layer sectors based on the elements reflected in the Commission's Communication.





Some Member States have already acted on phasing-out of cages (present/future)

- *Austria and Luxembur already phased out for laying hens
- *Germany plans phase out until 2025
- *Czech Republi phase out until 2027
- ★ Wallonia (Belgium) → phase out until 2028
- ★ Slovakia → phase out until 2030
- *France introduced a ban of amyew or refurbished farms with cages for hens.
- *Some MS introduced a ban onabbit production in cages.

 *This made commercial rabbit production impossible.
- *Some MS have also introduced a **deadline** on the farrowing and gestation crates **for sows**.
- *IMPACT ASSESSMENT = CENTRAL ROLE







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Main outcomes of the study

- * Severe impact on the EU27 net trade balance: In most scenarios studied, sharp increase in imports, and a decrease of exports decrease for pork & eggs.
- * Producer/consumer price highly dependent on the transition period chosen: The average producer price increases by 47.4% for pork and 3.7% for eggs with an immediate transition. Changes in producer and consumer prices for eggs are less significant when a longer transition is planned.
- * Concentration of farms is also expected to intensify due to some small-scale producers possibly leaving the profession.
- * Food security:internal EU production should cover the internal demand and should not be dependent on imports. Certain products becoming unaffordable would be an unacceptable social impact.
- * Cumulative impact of the European Green Dewll reduce internal production and ultimately make the EU dependent on imports from third countries and increase the price of products for the final consumer.
- * Carbon leakagespart of our pig and egg production will be relocated.

Sum mary and takeaways of the overall impact of a ban on the EU27

- *Ban on cages is only a limited part of a much greater equation the overall anim alwelfare legislation revision
- *The study on the impacts on the ban for the sow and hen sectors shows that the ban itself will have detrimental effects on the sectors.
- *The cumulative impact of all the European policiest will impact livestock production (such as the IED) must be considered.





Copa and Cogeca's requests to legislators

- *Copa and Cogeca ask for a gradual implementation of the measures and substantial EU aid for the livestock sector to cope with the investments needed.
- * The choice of transition period is key.
 - * As stated by the authors of the study themselv The "Commission is advised to give consideration to a framework fit for this purpose and manage the transition smoothly, instead of implementing a shock scenario." ***
- * Standards relating to cage sizes must be harm on ised in all EU countries
- * A common framework on animal health and welfare and a "one-health" approach should be adopted for animal welfare to include it in sanitary standards.
- *Lessons learned from Member States that already have experience with th ban and to consider the impact it had at national level.

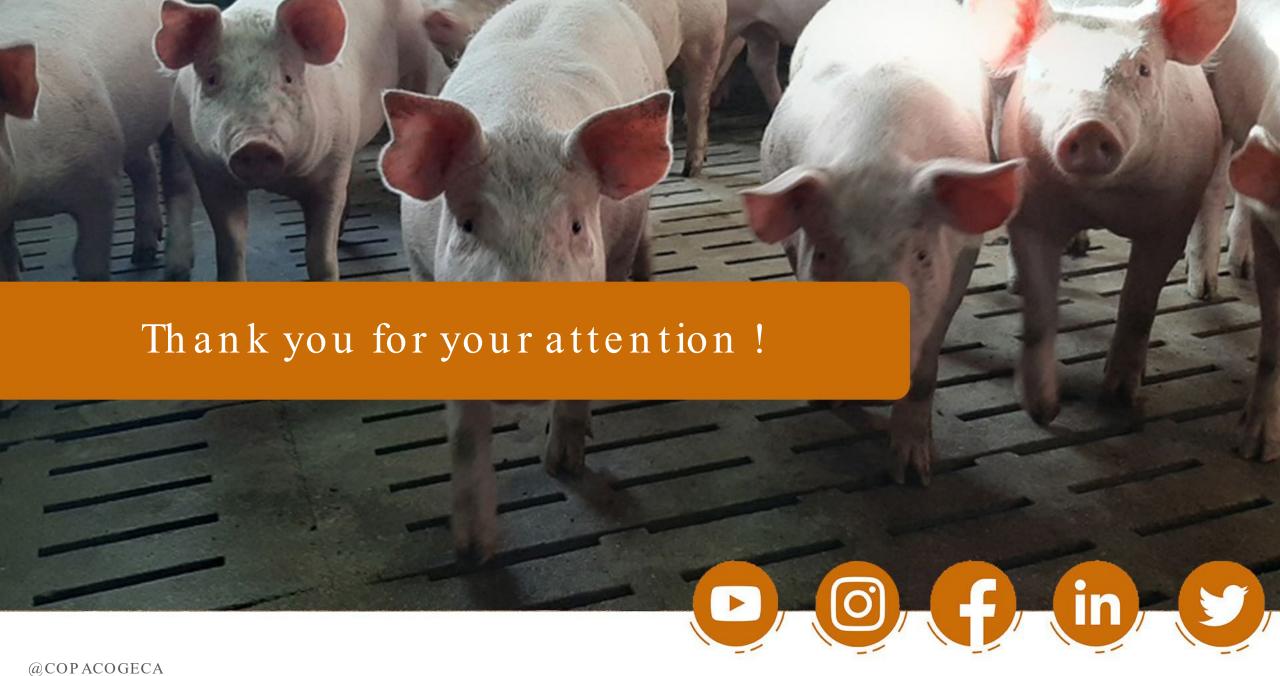


***Important elements regarding the transitional period

- * all farmers should have a long enough transition period
- *older farmers as well for whom it will be almost impossible to secure bank loans
- * 15/20 years min. required for bank loan!
- * difficulty of obtaining permits for upgrading and building new infrastructure
- * administrative burden







Policy: Manon.dubois@copa-cogeca.eu Communication: Jean-Baptiste.Boucher@copa-cogeca.eu

www.copa-cogeca.eu