Animal Welfare.
Worldwide.

Recommended Answers

1. Questions on the current situation of animal welfare in the EU

EU legislation regulating animal welfare at farm level does not ensure that farmed animals can express normal behaviours.

● FULLY AGREE

Unnecessary administrative burdens for EU farmers and business operators result from the coexistence of EU regulation, national rules, and private standards.

● FULLY AGREE

The broad or unspecific nature of some EU requirements leads to differences in how Member States enforce them, creating distortions in the internal market.

● FULLY AGREE

Food of animal origin coming from non-EU countries should have equivalent animal welfare standards to those of the EU.

● FULLY AGREE

EU rules need to align with societal expectations regarding the treatment of farmed animals, such as phasing out cages for certain animals.

● FULLY AGREE

The systematic killing of male layer chicks in the laying hens´ sector is ethically problematic.

● FULLY AGREE

Questions about possible future action at EU level:

2. How important is it that the revision of the EU legislation for on-farm animal welfare contributes to the respective main objectives of the EU Vision for Agriculture and Food?

An agri-food sector that is competitive and resilient.

● VERY IMPORTANT

An attractive and predictable agri-food sector.

● VERY IMPORTANT

A future proof agri-food sector that is functioning within planetary boundaries.

● VERY IMPORTANT

An agri-food sector that values food, fosters fair working and living conditions.

● VERY IMPORTANT

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3. How important is the phasing out of cages for certain categories of animals?

● VERY IMPORTANT (ALL ANIMAL CATEGORIES)

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4. Which barriers do you consider most significant in moving away from cage systems?

● Nothing apart from "OTHER"

"Uncertainty on the part of EU officials regarding the timetable for submitting proposals, which has led to a crisis of confidence in the EU institutions". This sentence should be rephrased in your own words (e.g. the unclear timeline creates legal uncertainty and dwindling trust).

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5. What is/are the most important supporting measure(s) needed to ensure a smooth transition into a cage-free farming system in the EU?

● Yes to everything – EXCEPT: "Long transition periods" + tick "other" and add the text below

Exception:

Long transition periods - **NO**

Other: "A rapid adoption of the entire legislative package including a ban on cage keeping for all species." The inclusion of imported products is crucial to achieving the policy objective of improving animal welfare in the EU. This will allow EU producers to make a faster/smoother transition to cage-free systems." This sentence should be rephrased in one's own words (e.g. adoption without further delays or rapid publication of the draft legislation, etc.).

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6. Which of the following elements could contribute most to simplify the overlapping of animal welfare rules applicable to farmers and reduce administrative burdens, while ensuring improved animal welfare outcomes?

● Clearer and more operational legal provisions

● Clearer roles and responsibilities

● Wider use of digital monitoring tools

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7. To what extent should imports of animal products comply with equivalent animal welfare standards to those applied in the EU?

● tick "For ALL the EU animal welfare requirements" for all products + tick "Other".

Free text answer: "Aquaculture/Fish"

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8. Which supporting measure could facilitate the transition to equivalent animal welfare standards in third countries?

● YES to EVERYTHING EXCEPT "Long transition periods"

Exception:

Long transition periods - **NO**

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9. To what extent could clearer and more consistent EU rules on on-farm animal welfare help ensure fairer conditions for farmers across Member States?

● VERY LARGE EXTENT

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10. In which ways and to what extent could the use of animal welfare indicators (e.g. behaviour, injuries, mortality) help to improve animal welfare on farms?

By improving the enforcement of the improved animal welfare rules on farms

● VERY LARGE EXTENT

For benchmarking purposes, e.g. helping to identify farms with higher animal welfare standards

● VERY LARGE EXTENT

By supporting policy monitoring, i.e. tracking how Member States implement animal welfare objectives

● VERY LARGE EXTENT

OTHER: "Animal welfare indicators are important tools, but they do not replace the higher animal welfare standards contained in legislation. Indicators can be helpful in implementing and monitoring the effectiveness of the new legislation, as well as in harmonizing implementation at Member State level. Indicators can also be relevant to determine which standards in third countries are in line with EU standards, and they can help to verify/control compliance." These sentences should be rephrased in your own words – for example: animal welfare indicators are an instrument, not a solution. They cannot be used in place of better animal welfare legislation.

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11. To the extent that affordable alternatives to the systematic killing of male day-old chicks in the egg production sector are available, how urgent is it for the EU to require the use of such alternatives?

● VERY URGENT

The open feedback questions can be answered with up to 5000 characters in each question and are important to elaborate answers given in the limited section above.

12. a) In your view, what are the most important changes that should be made to the current EU legislation on on-farm animal welfare?

Insert your demand for animal welfare here! Do not copy-paste these answers but rewrite them in your own words.

- Improved animal welfare standards for all farmed species, including broilers, other poultry, aquatic animals, rabbits and horses, with species-specific legislation.
- Ban on cages for all farmed animal species and equivalent standards for imported products.
- Ban on tie-stalls and equivalent standards for imported products.
- Outdoor access must be compulsory for all animal species.
- Demands with the highest priority (list not exhaustive):
    - For laying hens: ban on cages (with a transitional period of max. 4-5 years) and a stocking density of a maximum of 7 hens/m^2.
    - For broiler chickens and turkeys: gradual abolition of fast-growing breeds and reduction of stocking density without derogations. Elevated platforms for species-specific resting behaviour must be compulsory.
    - For pigs: ban on crates for pregnancy and piglet rearing (with a transitional period of max. 3-5 years), ban on tail docking. Group housing for pregnant sows and free farrowing must be compulsory. Farrowing pens must be at least 7.8 m^2 (+ 6 m^2 outdoor area), including a designated area for piglets (1.2 m^2) and at least 5.5 m^2 of lying/nesting area with bedding. The pens must allow the sow for locomotion, nest building and maternal behaviour.
    - For aquatic animals: To ensure that farmed aquatic animals (fish and decapods) are included in the scope of the upcoming revision of the law, equivalent animal welfare standards will apply to imports of "seafood" and species-specific binding animal welfare rules will be introduced, covering the entire aquaculture production chain.
- Prohibition of mutilations and enforcement of existing bans like routine tail docking in pigs
- Prohibition of force-feeding
- Ban on killing day-old chicks (including male chicks and ducklings)
- Prohibition of forced moulting
- Prohibition of breeding and release of farmed game animals

This block should be rephrased in your own words.

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12. (b) How can these changes be designed or accompanied in a way that also strengthens the competitiveness and long-term resilience of the livestock sector in the EU?

Insert economic arguments here! Do not copy-paste these answers, but rewrite in your own words.

- Farmers must be supported in the transition to cage-free livestock farming through robust financial instruments.
- Supportive measures to reduce the numbers of farmed animals in the EU must be taken and farmers that want to step out of animal farming must be financially supported.
- No direct or indirect financial support should be given to farms with intensive animal production.
- Strict controls and sanctions help to enforce legislation and to ensure a level playing field and to reduce competitive disadvantages for farms that adhere to animal welfare standards while others do not.
- Funding under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) should be increased to provide more funding for animal welfare measures. At the same time, ambitious agroecological and climate policy measures should be implemented, which also serve to improve animal welfare.
- A resilient and future-proof agricultural sector is based on sustainable farming practices – higher animal welfare standards are at the heart of this transformation.
- Case studies highlighting the economic aspects of the transition to more animal-friendly husbandry systems show that investment in animal welfare promotes long-term stability and competitiveness.

This block should be rephrased in your own words.

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13. Do you have any additional comments, views or evidence to share related to the revision of EU legislation on on-farm animal welfare?

(This is an optional question)

- Better enforcement of existing rules is necessary but cannot be a substitute for improved animal welfare standards in legislation.

Please share case studies of successful transitions to cage-free farming or higher animal welfare standards for animal species that are not kept in cages, but for which we are still striving to improve husbandry conditions (e.g. fattening poultry).