

The European Union approach to farm animal welfare:

The Community Action Plan on the Protection and Welfare of Animals

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Animal Welfare in 2007: an expanding policy area

- Animal welfare policies in the EU are today an issue of high public concern and political relevance.
- Animal welfare no more considered a "sentimental issue"
- Animal welfare is no longer only a EU issue
- The critical link between animal welfare, animal health and food safety has been widely assessed.



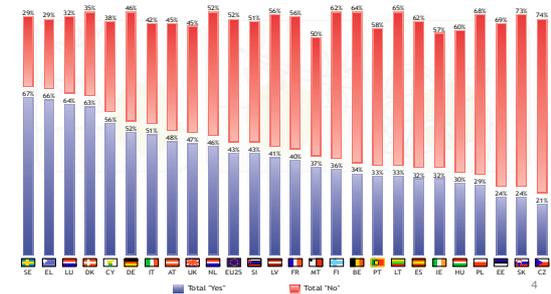
Consumer CONCERNS: EUROBAROMETER survey - 2006

- EU citizens rank AW highly, giving it 8 out of 10 on average in terms of importance
- 89% think that import should be produced under the same animal welfare conditions as those originating in the EU

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Consumer CONCERNS: EUROBAROMETER survey - 2005

Thinking about animal welfare when purchasing: EU average 43%



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Consumer CONCERNS: EUROBAROMETER survey - 2006

- 62% would change shopping habits in order to access more animal welfare friendly goods
- 51% think AW friendly goods are healthier than other food and 48% think they are of better quality



What are the effects of animal welfare concerns on trade?

Globalisation is revolutionising international trade in live animals and animal products

- Animals are at the centre of ethical concerns modulated by cultural and traditional values;
- Global stakeholders (from producers to retailers and NGOs) are today confronted by "local" demands for animal welfare





Animal Welfare - Basic Principles

The "Five Freedoms"

- From discomfort
- To express natural behaviour
- From hunger and thirst
- From fear and distress
- From pain, injury and disease

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Main legislative initiatives

- 1974/1993 Stunning and Killing
- 1977/1995 Transport protection Transport time limit and densities
- 1988 Laying Hens
- 1991 Calves – Pigs protection
- 1998 General Farm animal protection (Dir 98/58/EC)
- 1999 Amsterdam Treaty Protocol on protection and welfare of animals
- 1999 Ban on conventional cages for laying hens
- 2001 Grouping of pregnant sows
- 2005 Council Regulation 1/2005 on animal transport
- 2005 Proposal on broiler chickens
- **2006 Community Action Plan**
- 2007 Ban on trade in cat and dog fur
- 2007 Broiler chickens

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The EC Treaty's Protocol on Protection and Welfare of Animals

It recognises animals as sentient beings and requires that full regard is paid to this in formulating and implementing the Community's policies, while respecting the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of the Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage.

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The Community AW Action Plan 2006 - 2010

- ▶ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council that proposes [five main areas of action](#)
- ▶ Outlines a range of actions for the period 2006-2010 covering **not only farm animals**, also laboratory and wild animals



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The five main areas of action

1. Upgrading existing minimum standards for animal protection and welfare
2. Giving a high priority to promoting policy-orientated future research on animal protection and welfare and application of the 3Rs principle
3. Introducing standardised animal welfare indicators

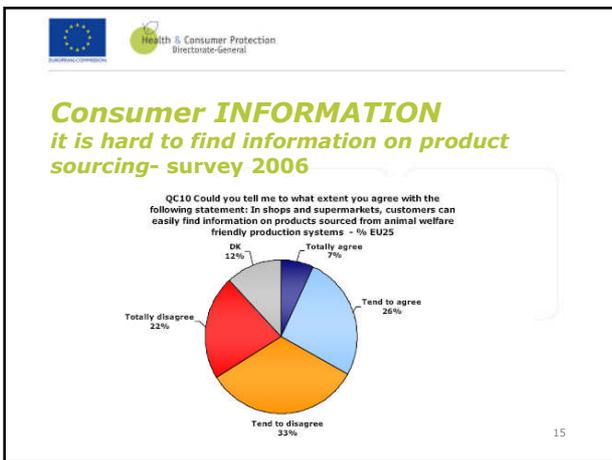
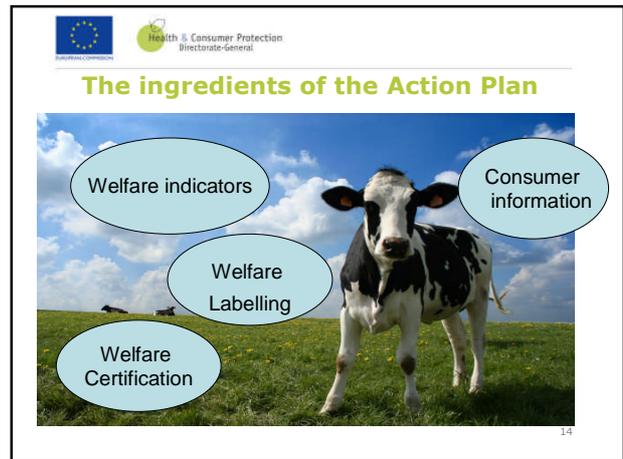
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The five main areas of action

4. Ensuring that animal keepers/handlers as well as the general public are more involved and informed on current standards of animal protection and welfare
5. Continue to support and initiate further international initiatives to raise awareness and create a greater consensus on animal welfare

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- ## LABELLING- EU label for animal welfare ?
- To promote products elaborated under high welfare standards
 - To facilitate the choice of the consumers between:
 - Products obtained with basic welfare standards (minimum EU standards)
 - Products obtained with higher standards (voluntary codes of practice, quality schemes or Member States' legislation beyond EU minimum rules)

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- ## LABELLING: overall approach to labelling
- providing consumers with necessary information;
 - creating a pro-competitive market environment in which dynamic, efficient, innovative operators can make full use of the power of labelling to sell their products;
 - being consistent, coherent and transparent;
 - creating common framework and rules in order to eliminate barriers to free circulation of goods.

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- ## To create businesses opportunities applying welfare requirements
- Welfare Quality**
Consumer and society improving animal welfare
- This project aims to accommodate societal concerns and market demands, to develop reliable on-farm monitoring systems, product information systems, and practical species-specific strategies to improve animal welfare. The project started in May 2004 and will take five years to complete
 - The key is to link informed consumer's choice to animal husbandry practices on the farm. The project therefore adopts a "fork to farm" rather than the traditional "farm to fork" approach".



To facilitate sustainable trade: Working towards international awareness on animal welfare

- Multilateral animal welfare standards – **OIE Guidelines**
- Bilateral agreements (eg. Chile-EU)
- **Teaching** animal welfare on common scientific bases to profit of synergies
- Supporting further **international research** on the links between animal health and animal welfare
- **Translating science** for everyday use (from the farm to the slaughter plant)

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The challenges for the International Trade

- Implementation of animal welfare standards to deliver quality in animal production while respecting good health and welfare of the animals
- Requires high level of management skills, technical knowledge but awareness of the ethical value of animal welfare
- Information of consumers to give preference to sustainable products

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Thanks for your attention

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