



Animal health and welfare in the Farm to Fork Strategy

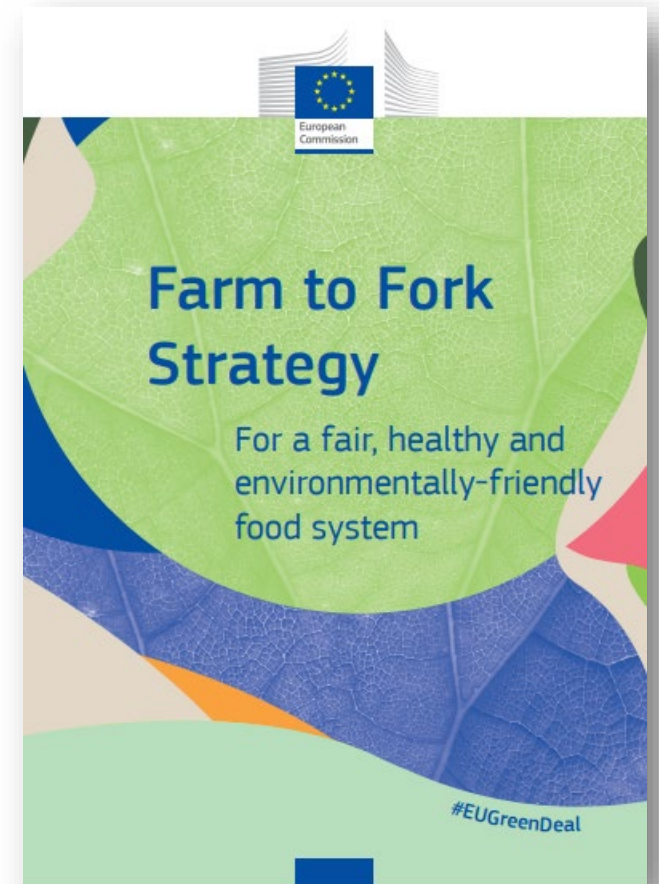
Christian Juliusson, DG SANTE

*#Breeders Talk Green: “Healthy and happy animals for sustainable societies”
Webinar organised by EFFAB and FABRE-TP
9 February 2021*

European Green Deal and Farm to Fork

- The **European Green Deal**: Make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050.
- The **Farm to Fork Strategy (F2F)** is at the heart of the Green Deal:

“Better animal welfare improves animal health and food quality, reduces the need for medication and can help preserve biodiversity.”



Livestock and sustainability

A healthy and well treated livestock contributes to a sustainable food production, as it in a global perspective for instance:

- Represents the livelihood, especially for women in many countries.
- Provides a well-needed balanced nutrition, not least for children.
- Helps to reduce resource use and green gas emissions.

The role of breeding

- **European Parliament Research Service (2017):** *“The efficiency of farm animals could be improved and their methane emissions reduced through breeding or even genetic modification.”*
- Breeding may contribute to robust and healthy animals by selection for more **disease resistance**, hence reducing the need for antimicrobials.
- **Rapid growth and highly specialised selection may have negative impacts on animal welfare.**

Animal welfare concerns (broilers)

- **EFSA (2010):** *“The major welfare concerns that have a genetic basis and that may interact with management factors to lead to poor welfare include skeletal disorders, contact dermatitis, ascites and sudden death syndrome. Most of these are linked with fast growth rates.”*
- **COM(2016)182:** *“Most of the welfare problems in broilers are the result of multiple factors, like environmental factors, management factors and genetic factors.”*
- **The Farm to Fork Strategy – a holistic approach!**

Animal Welfare in F2F

- Revision of the **animal welfare legislation**, including on animal transport and the slaughter of animals, to
 - align it with the latest scientific evidence,
 - broaden its scope,
 - make it easier to enforce and
 - ultimately ensure a higher level of animal welfare.
- *Consider options for animal welfare labelling to better transmit value through the food chain.*



Step one: "Fitness Check"

- Council Directive 98/58/EC (animals kept for farming purposes)
- Council Directive 1999/74/EC (laying hens)
- Council Directive 2007/43/EC (broilers)
- Council Directive 2008/119/EC (calves)
- Council Directive 2008/120/EC (pigs)
- Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 (animal transports)
- Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 (killing of animals)



Purpose of the Fitness Check

- To which extent does the EU animal welfare legislation remain fit for purpose in light of ongoing and future challenges?
- What further action might be necessary to align the EU's animal welfare objectives to the sustainability goals of the European Green Deal and of the Farm to Fork Strategy?

The process ahead

- 1) **Fitness Check** based on external studies, new scientific evidence, the evaluation of the EU Animal Welfare Strategy (2012-2015), pilot projects, Commission audits in the Member States etc. – including *consultation of stakeholders*.
- 2) **Revision** of the EU animal welfare legislation, subject to customary impact assessment(s).



Thank you!



© European Union 2020

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

