Farm Animal Welfare in the EU

Olga Kikou
olga.kikou@ciwf.org
Five freedoms

- Freedom from hunger or thirst
- Freedom from discomfort
- Freedom from pain, injury or disease
- Freedom to express (most) normal behaviour
- Freedom from fear and distress
TFEU recognizes animals as **sentient beings** rather than as just goods or products.

“In formulating and implementing the Union’s agriculture, fisheries, transport, internal market, research and technological development and space policies, the Union and the Member States shall, since animals are sentient beings, **pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals**.”

Two separate obligations:
- during formulation of certain policies
- during their implementation
Farm animals: EU legislation

Transport Regulation 1/2005
Slaughter Regulation 1099/2009
EU wide ban on:
• veal crates (2007)
• battery cages (2012)
• sow stalls (2013)

Directive 98/58 on the protection of animals kept for farming purposes (general)
Laying Hens Directive 1999/74
Broilers Directive 2007/43
Calves Directive 2008/119
Pigs Directive 2001/88
Dairy cows, rabbits, ducks, geese and other farm animals – no Directive yet (general Directive applies)
MS can apply higher standards if they wish so
Farm to fork approach

Every phase of production is regulated and closely monitored:
From the time the animal is born till slaughter.
From slaughter through processing till the animal products end up on the table.

Photo: Compassion in World Farming
TTIP and farm animal welfare

- Public discourse: chlorine chicken and hormone beef, ractopamine pork - food safety
- See what happens before the animal ends up as meat – animal welfare issue
- COM claims that through TTIP we will be able to positively influence the US and advance animal welfare
Proposed SPS chapter – EU side

Article 17 – Animal Welfare

- Recognition of sentience in animals
- Exchange information and know-how
- Aim to align regulatory standards
- Strengthen collaboration
- Promote good practices
- Possible appointment of a working group

- Weak, non binding language
- Unenforceable provisions
- Annexes
Cloning

Two proposals
Ban on the use of clones in farming (certain species)
Ban on the sale of products from clones

No proposal re descendants or labelling: How will EU citizens determine whether products from cloned animals or descendants are in the food supply

Role of TTIP – “not to upset the Americans”, make it easier for the negotiations

Photo: istock
Threats

• Use of antibiotics as growth promoters
• Hormones in meat
• Use of ractopamine (used as a growth promoting hormone in pigs) in the feed
• Cloning and GM
• Labelling rules (eggs?)
• Farmers’ concerns
• Existing legislation
• Freeze in future legislation at EU and MS level
• Intensification of animal farming
The process of intensification

TTIP will privilege US and EU intensive production methods at the expense of more sustainable agricultural practices.
TTIP - What is at stake

The future direction of food and farming and the model of agriculture we citizens want to have.

Our argument re TTIP: it’s not the US vs the EU or vice versa. Rather it’s the interests of citizens vs those of corporations