

Public Consultation on Animal Welfare modernisation

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

Under the [Vision for Agriculture and Food](#) of 19 February 2025, the Commission has announced its intention to closely exchange with farmers, the food supply chain and civil society and on that basis to present legislative proposals on the revision of the existing EU animal welfare legislation, including to follow-up on its commitment to phase out cages. The Vision also sets out that the Commission will make sure that future legislative proposals on animal welfare apply the same standards to products produced in the EU and those imported from non-EU countries in a WTO compliant way and based on an impact assessment.

The Commission's fitness check of the EU animal welfare legislation in 2022 concluded that the current legislation is no longer fit for purpose. Neither is it aligned with societal and ethical expectations. One example of such ethical concerns is the 'End the Cage Age' European Citizens' Initiative, to which the Commission has responded positively in 2021 by committing to propose legislation to phase out the use of cages for certain categories of animals.

There is an interest across the livestock industry in modernising the animal welfare legislation by better using animal welfare indicators, to bring more flexibility and to simplify compliance and enforcement. Stakeholders have also called for EU animal welfare rules to apply to imports in line with international rules.

On 12 May 2025, the Commission announced its intention to modernise the EU rules for **on-farm animal welfare** in line with the objectives of the Vision.

Further to the [Call of Evidence](#), which was launched in June 2025, this consultation aims to gather feedback from a wide range of stakeholders, including citizens, economic operators, trade and consumer associations, NGOs, research institutes, academia, and non-EU stakeholders. Your input is valuable in helping us assess the current situation and helps ensure that any future legislation is evidence-based, proportionate, and aligned with societal expectations and economic realities.

About you

* Language of my contribution

- Bulgarian
- Croatian
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- Estonian
- Finnish
- French
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Irish
- Italian
- Latvian
- Lithuanian
- Maltese
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Slovak
- Slovenian
- Spanish
- Swedish

* I am giving my contribution as

- Academic/research institution
- Business association
- Company/business
- Consumer organisation
- EU citizen
- Environmental organisation

- Non-EU citizen
- Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- Public authority
- Trade union
- Other

*First name

Tara

*Surname

Ward

*Email (this won't be published)

tara@ado.org.au

*I have a good knowledge of EU and national legislation related to farmed animals

- Very good knowledge
- Sufficient knowledge
- Basic knowledge
- No knowledge

*Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

This list does not represent the official position of the European institutions with regard to the legal status or policy of the entities mentioned. It is a harmonisation of often divergent lists and practices.

<input type="radio"/> Afghanistan	<input type="radio"/> Djibouti	<input type="radio"/> Libya	<input type="radio"/> Saint Martin
<input type="radio"/> Åland Islands	<input type="radio"/> Dominica	<input type="radio"/> Liechtenstein	<input type="radio"/> Saint Pierre and Miquelon
<input type="radio"/> Albania	<input type="radio"/> Dominican Republic	<input type="radio"/> Lithuania	<input type="radio"/> Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
<input type="radio"/> Algeria	<input type="radio"/> Ecuador	<input type="radio"/> Luxembourg	<input type="radio"/> Samoa
<input type="radio"/> American Samoa	<input type="radio"/> Egypt	<input type="radio"/> Macau	<input type="radio"/> San Marino

● Andorra	● El Salvador	● Madagascar	● São Tomé and Príncipe
● Angola	● Equatorial Guinea	● Malawi	● Saudi Arabia
● Anguilla	● Eritrea	● Malaysia	● Senegal
● Antarctica	● Estonia	● Maldives	● Serbia
● Antigua and Barbuda	● Eswatini	● Mali	● Seychelles
● Argentina	● Ethiopia	● Malta	● Sierra Leone
● Armenia	● Falkland Islands	● Marshall Islands	● Singapore
● Aruba	● Faroe Islands	● Martinique	● Sint Maarten
● Australia	● Fiji	● Mauritania	● Slovakia
● Austria	● Finland	● Mauritius	● Slovenia
● Azerbaijan	● France	● Mayotte	● Solomon Islands
● Bahamas	● French Guiana	● Mexico	● Somalia
● Bahrain	● French Polynesia	● Micronesia	● South Africa
● Bangladesh	● French Southern and Antarctic Lands	● Moldova	● South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
● Barbados	● Gabon	● Monaco	● South Korea
● Belarus	● Georgia	● Mongolia	● South Sudan
● Belgium	● Germany	● Montenegro	● Spain
● Belize	● Ghana	● Montserrat	● Sri Lanka
● Benin	● Gibraltar	● Morocco	● Sudan
● Bermuda	● Greece	● Mozambique	● Suriname
● Bhutan	● Greenland	● Myanmar/Burma	● Svalbard and Jan Mayen
● Bolivia	● Grenada	● Namibia	● Sweden
● Bonaire Saint Eustatius and Saba	● Guadeloupe	● Nauru	● Switzerland
● Bosnia and Herzegovina	● Guam	● Nepal	● Syria

● Botswana	● Guatemala	● Netherlands	● Taiwan
● Bouvet Island	● Guernsey	● New Caledonia	● Tajikistan
● Brazil	● Guinea	● New Zealand	● Tanzania
● British Indian Ocean Territory	● Guinea-Bissau	● Nicaragua	● Thailand
● British Virgin Islands	● Guyana	● Niger	● The Gambia
● Brunei	● Haiti	● Nigeria	● Timor-Leste
● Bulgaria	● Heard Island and McDonald Islands	● Niue	● Togo
● Burkina Faso	● Honduras	● Norfolk Island	● Tokelau
● Burundi	● Hong Kong	● Northern Mariana Islands	● Tonga
● Cambodia	● Hungary	● North Korea	● Trinidad and Tobago
● Cameroon	● Iceland	● North Macedonia	● Tunisia
● Canada	● India	● Norway	● Türkiye
● Cape Verde	● Indonesia	● Oman	● Turkmenistan
● Cayman Islands	● Iran	● Pakistan	● Turks and Caicos Islands
● Central African Republic	● Iraq	● Palau	● Tuvalu
● Chad	● Ireland	● Palestine	● Uganda
● Chile	● Isle of Man	● Panama	● Ukraine
● China	● Israel	● Papua New Guinea	● United Arab Emirates
● Christmas Island	● Italy	● Paraguay	● United Kingdom
● Clipperton	● Jamaica	● Peru	● United States
● Cocos (Keeling) Islands	● Japan	● Philippines	● United States Minor Outlying Islands
● Colombia	● Jersey	● Pitcairn Islands	● Uruguay

- Comoros
- Congo
- Cook Islands
- Costa Rica
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Croatia
- Cuba
- Curaçao
- Cyprus
- Czechia
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Denmark
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Kosovo
- Kuwait
- Kyrgyzstan
- Laos
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Poland
- Portugal
- Puerto Rico
- Qatar
- Réunion
- Romania
- Russia
- Rwanda
- Saint Barthélemy
- Saint Helena
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- US Virgin Islands
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu
- Vatican City
- Venezuela
- Vietnam
- Wallis and Futuna
- Western Sahara
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
- Zimbabwe

The Commission will publish all contributions to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. **For the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association, 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published.** Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

*Contribution publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

Anonymous

The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, your country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself.

Public

Your name, the type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, your country of origin and your contribution will be published.

I agree with the personal data protection provisions

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

	FULLY AGREE	PARTLY AGREE	NEUTRAL/	PARTLY DISAGREE	FULLY DISAGREE	NO OPINION / DO NOT KNOW
* EU legislation regulating animal welfare at farm level does not ensure that farmed animals can express normal behaviours.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Unnecessary administrative burdens for EU farmers and business operators result from the coexistence of EU regulation, national rules, and private standards.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* The broad or unspecific nature of some EU requirements lead to differences in how Member States enforce them, creating distortions in the internal market	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Food of animal origin coming from non-EU countries should have equivalent animal welfare standards to those of the EU.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* EU rules need to align with societal expectations regarding the treatment of farmed animals, such as phasing out cages for certain animals.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* The systematic killing of male layer chicks in the laying hens' sector is ethically problematic.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Questions on potential future actions 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?

	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NEUTRAL	NOT VERY IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	NO OPINION / DON'T KNOW
* An agri-food sector that is competitive and resilient.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
* An attractive and predictable agri-food sector.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
* A future proof agri-food sector that is functioning within planetary boundaries.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* An agri-food sector that values food, fosters fair working and living conditions.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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

	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NEUTRAL	NOT VERY IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	NO OPINION / DON' T KNOW
* Laying hens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
* Pigs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
* Calves	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
* Pullets (young chicken)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
* Broiler breeders (meat-chicken for reproduction)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
* Layer breeders (egg-laying chicken for reproduction)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
* Rabbits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
* Ducks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
* Geese	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
* Quail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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

- High investment costs
- Lack of technical knowledge/support for alternative production methods
- Uncertainty around market returns
- Space and infrastructure limitations
- Labour availability
- Lack of consumer willingness to pay
- Other

Which one(s)?

None of these applies. There are higher-welfare farms already operating, so low-welfare, cage-using farms have no excuse.

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

- EU public funding, e.g. through the Common Agricultural Policy
- National public funding
- Public-private partnership to facilitate loans (e.g. through the European Investment Bank)
- Long transition periods
- Farmer-to-farmer technical advice
- Production method information, e.g. through marketing standards
- Information campaigns
- Species-specific technical guidance documents
- Other

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

- Clearer and more operational legal provisions
- More harmonised EU rules / less freedom for stricter national rules

- Clearer roles and responsibilities
- Wider use of digital monitoring tools
- Greater reliance on outcome-based welfare indicators
- Other (please specify)
- None of the above

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

	FOR ALL THE EU ANIMAL WELFARE REQUIREMENTS	FOR MOST THE EU ANIMAL WELFARE REQUIREMENTS	FOR SOME OF THE EU ANIMAL WELFARE REQUIREMENTS	FOR FEW OF THE EU ANIMAL WELFARE REQUIREMENTS	FOR NONE OF THE EU ANIMAL WELFARE REQUIREMENTS	NO OPINION / DON'T KNOW
* Poultry meat and meat products	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Eggs and egg products	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Pork and pork products	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Veal, beef meat and meat products	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Milk and dairy products	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* Rabbit meat and meat products	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
* Other	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Free Text Question

Fish and fish products

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

- EU training and technical support
- Long transition periods
- Production method information, e.g. through marketing standards
- Support through multilateral instruments
- Species-specific technical guidance documents
- Other

***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
- LARGE EXTENT
- NEUTRAL
- NOT VERY LARGE
- NOT LARGE AT ALL (the current system is sufficient)
- DO NOT KNOW / NO OPINION

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?

	VERY LARGE EXTENT	LARGE EXTENT	NEUTRAL	NOT VERY LARGE	NOT LARGE AT ALL (the current system is sufficient)	NO OPINION / DO NOT KNOW
* By improving the enforcement of animal welfare rules on farms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* For benchmarking purposes, e.g. helping to identify farms with higher animal welfare standards	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* By supporting policy monitoring, i. e. tracking how Member States implement animal welfare objectives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* OTHER	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please provide details

Welfare indicators should not be a replacement for legislative inputs.

***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
- URGENT
- NEUTRAL
- NOT VERY URGENT
- NOT URGENT AT ALL
- DO NOT KNOW / NO OPINION

***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?**

EU legislation should be updated to phase out the use of cages, crates or pens for any farmed animal. These methods of confinement should be phased out completely - not substituted with bigger or enriched cages. And they should be phased out for all animals, including poultry (chickens, hens, turkeys, ducks, geese, quails), pigs (especially sow stalls and farrowing crates), rabbits, and veal crates for young calves. The legislation should also be updated to include fishes as they are clearly sentient, and to protect the welfare of farmed fishes. All these sentient animals deserve to live a life worth living.

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

EU livestock farmers should be supported to transition away from harmful and high-emitting animal agriculture to more sustainable industries such as crops for human consumption, more plant-based proteins (eg legumes and grains), and cell-based or cultured meats. This would future-proof the EU agriculture sector and help reduce green-house gasses by reducing EU's overall livestock herd.

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

If the EU has not done so already, it should acknowledge animal sentience in its welfare laws. Our jurisdiction (the Australian Capital Territory ("ACT")) recognises animal sentience in the objects clause in our Animal Welfare Act 1992 (ACT). The ACT has also banned harmful practices such as debeaking hens and keeping poultry or pigs in cages. We encourage the EU to do the same and to lead the rest of the world with higher animal welfare standards.

Please upload your file(s)

Only files of the type pdf,txt,doc,docx,odt,rtf are allowed

Contact

[Contact Form](#)