

Implementing the cage ban through legislation possible options



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Current EU animal welfare legislation

Article 12

(ex Article 153(2) TEC)

Consumer protection requirements shall be taken into account in defining and implementing other Union policies and activities.

Article 13

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, while respecting the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of the Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage.

Article 14

(ex Article 16 TEC)

Without prejudice to Article 4 of the Treaty on European Union or to Articles 93, 106 and 107 of this Treaty, and given the place occupied by services of general economic interest in the shared values of the Union as well as their role in promoting social and territorial cohesion, the Union and the Member States, each within their respective powers and within the scope of application of the Treaties, shall take care that such services operate on the basis of principles and conditions, particularly economic and financial conditions, which enable them to fulfil their missions. The European Parliament and the Council, acting by means of regulations in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure, shall establish these principles and set these conditions without



Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU

Recognises animals as sentient beings

5 Directives on animals kept in farms

- General requirements for all animals
 - Laying hens
 - Calves
 - Pigs
- Chickens for meat production

2 Regulations

- Animal transport
- Killing of animals

'Farm to Fork' Strategy



Farm to Fork Strategy:

Revise the animal welfare legislation 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.

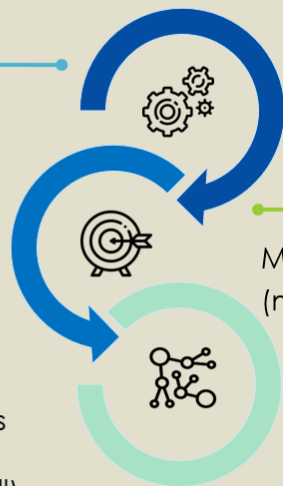


European Citizens Initiative 'End the Cage Age'

Calls on the Commission to propose legislation to prohibit the use of cages for:
laying hens, rabbits, pullets, broiler breeders, layer breeders, quail, ducks, geese, sows and calves.

Collected **1.4 million signatures**
(minimum: 1 million)

- Supported by more than **170 organisations** throughout the EU
- Support from major food companies (Unilever, Nestlé, Mondelez, etc.) and well-known figures (Jane Goodall)

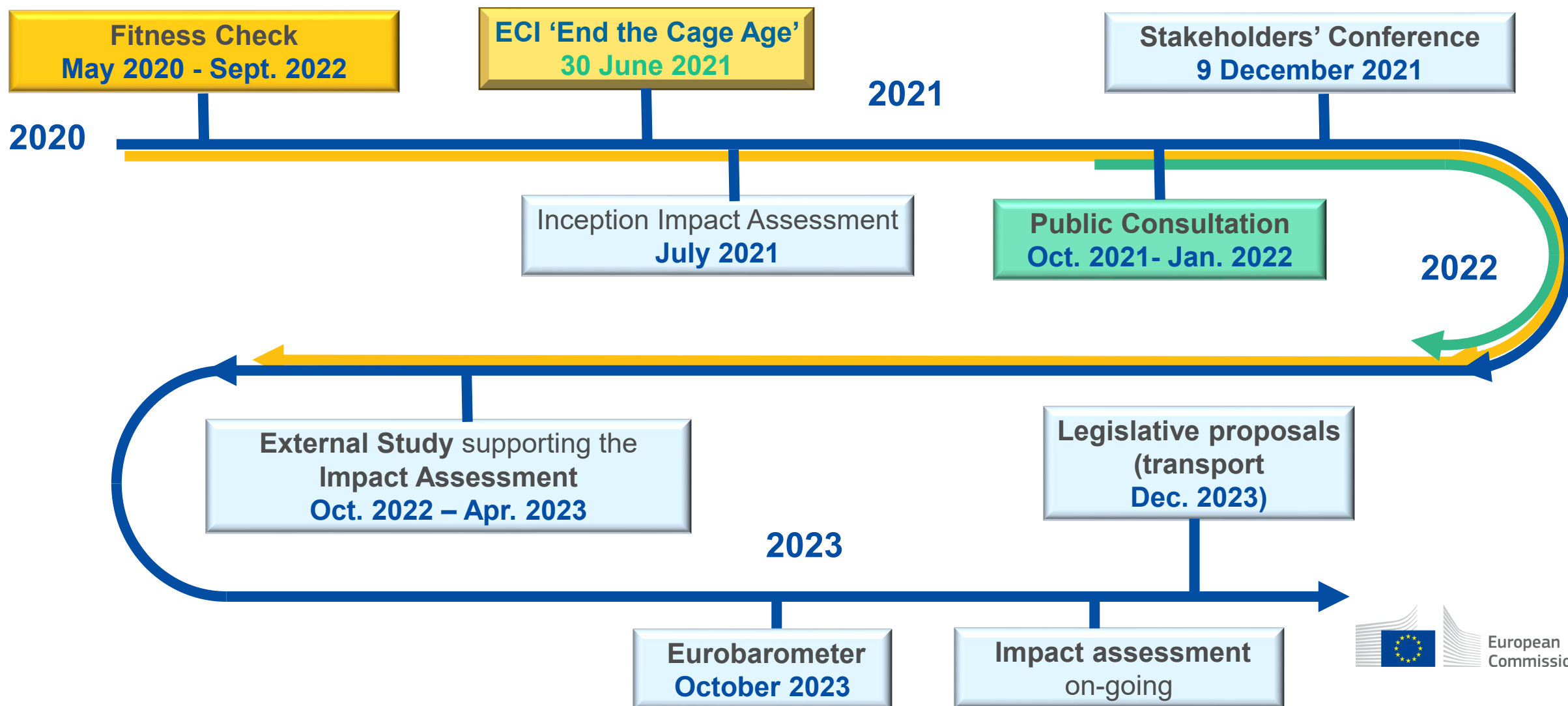


Met the threshold in **18 MS**
(minimum: 7 Member States)

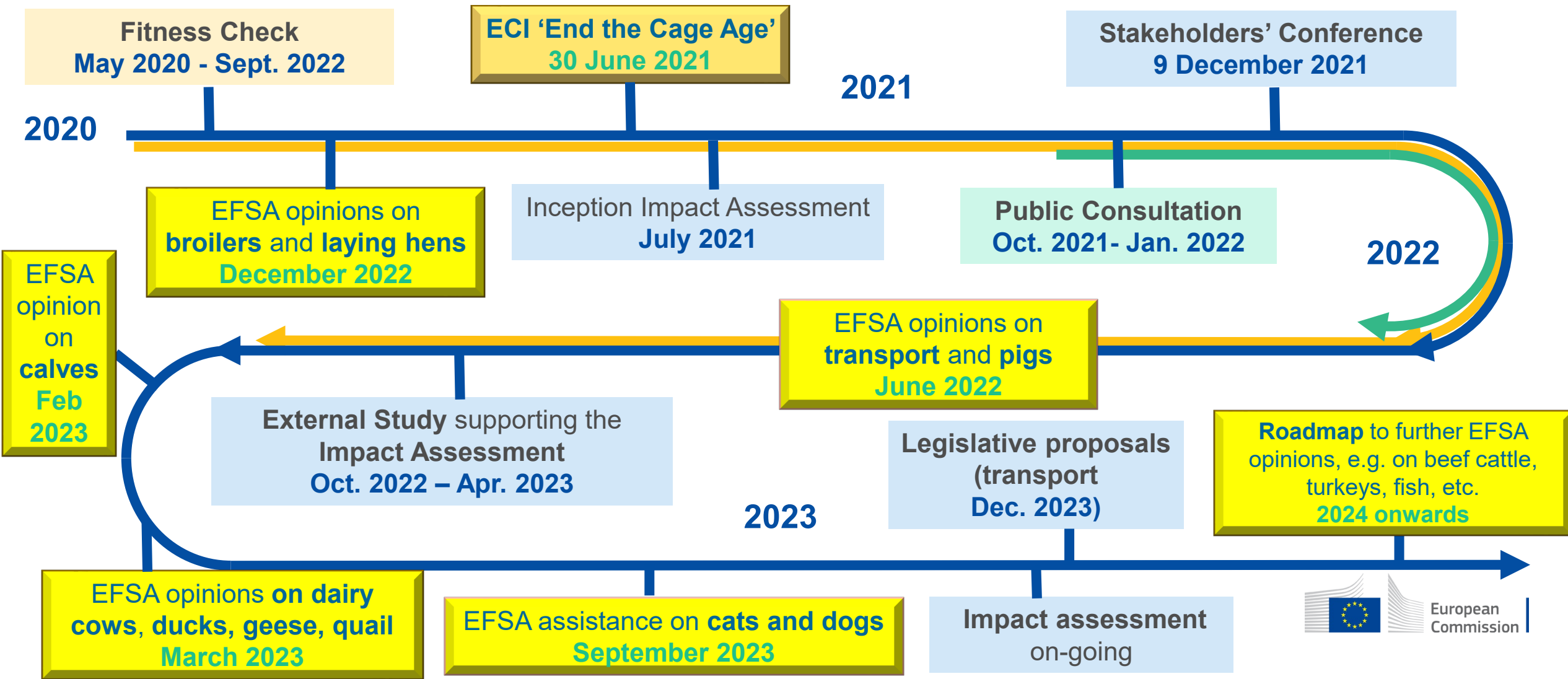
ECI Communication (C(2021)4747):

Propose to phase out and finally prohibit the use of cage systems, for all the species and categories referred to in the ECI, under conditions (including the length of the transition period) to be determined based on EFSA opinions, public consultation + impact assessment

Process towards the revision of the EU animal welfare legislation



Process towards the revision of the EU animal welfare legislation



EFSA mandates (2022-2030)

- Transport
- killing
- On farm
 - Pigs
 - Broilers
 - Laying hens
 - Calves
 - Ducks, geese and quail
 - Dairy cows
- Assistance on cat and dogs



+ A "roadmap" for upcoming scientific opinions (2025-2030) on the welfare of e.g.:

- Beef cattle
- Sheep and goats
- Cats and dogs
- Turkeys
- Farmed fish
- Horses
- Minks, racoon dogs and foxes
- Certain invertebrates

Main recommendations in EFSA opinions

Avoid individual housing

Keep animals in small groups of 2-7 animals of similar age for social behaviour.



Cow-calf contact

Cow and calf need to be together for at least 1 day after birth.



Space allowance

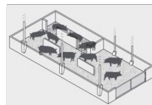
Calves need to have enough space to be able to rest in a relaxed position - at least 3m² per animal.



To be able to perform full play behaviour they need 20 m².

Comfortable bedding

For their comfort provide a deformable bedding.



Group sows at the time of weaning



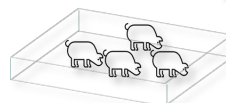
Preventive measures to avoid the need of mutilations



Nursing : use of pens with more space and features



Minimum weaning age ≥ 28 days



Sufficient space allowance

Enrichment



Giving them enough space to move around freely and comfortably, and avoiding the use of tie-stalls.



Making sure that there is enough space for each cow in cubicle houses, by providing at least one cubicle per cow.



Ensuring that each cow has enough space to move and lie down comfortably, by providing at least 9m² of space per cow in indoor housing.



Providing sufficiently thick bedding material, to ensure that the cows are comfortable and healthy.



Having brushes available for cows in loose-housing systems to help them stay clean and comfortable.



CAGES

Avoid the use of cages.



STOCKING DENSITY

Reduce the stocking density to give birds enough space to perform behaviours.



ELEVATED PLATFORMS

Allow all birds simultaneous resting and the ability to escape from each other.



COVERED VERANDA

Supports exploration, foraging and dustbathing.



FRIABLE LITTER AND ENRICHMENT

Supports comfort, foraging and exploratory behaviour



AVOID MUTILATIONS

Mutilations cause pain, and alternatives are available.

Waterfowl



Waterfowl need a solid floor with litter and drainage areas around open water.



Access to open water to bathe or head dip.



More spacious enclosures and a height that allows humans to enter to inspect the birds if needed.



Adequate enrichment and foraging material.



Access to an outdoor area or, if not available, to a covered veranda.



Adequate nest area and nesting material to perform nesting behaviour.

Japanese quail



DUST-BATHING

Should be provided with areas and fine material for dust-bathing.



SPACE

More spacious enclosures and a total height that allows birds to jump or fly up without injury and for humans to inspect birds if needed.



NESTING

Adequate nest area and nesting material to perform nesting behaviour.



SOLID FLOOR

Solid floor with friable litter and enrichment material that allows the birds to perform exploratory and foraging behaviour.



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End of cage age : options for pigs



To phase out and finally prohibit the use of farrowing crates and sow stalls, where not already prohibited.

Possible options :

- requiring group housing for sows after weaning and zero confinement of farrowing and lactating sows

or

- Possibility of allowing temporary confinement for a few days around farrowing
- Different transition periods

End of cage age : options for calves



To phase out and finally prohibit individual housing for calves, where not already prohibited

- Possible options: include requiring calves to stay 1-3 days with the mother and then housing of calves in small groups
- Transition periods

End of cage age : option for poultry



- Laying hens and pullets, at minimum single or multi-tier barn systems;
- Ducks, geese and quails, at minimum collective pens with sufficient space and enrichment;
- Broiler and layer breeders,
 - At minimum barn systems
 - Possibility of an exemption for pedigree breeding birds and great-grand parents

End of cage age : options for rabbits



- Group housing

or

- Group housing except for female breeding rabbits;

Impact assessment



MAIN IMPACTS:

- **Animal welfare**
 - **Economic**
 - **Social**
- **Environmental**

• **Environmental**

• **Social**



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Transitional and accompanying actions

- Facilitating the transition to cage-free farming
- Considering relevant societal concerns, economic impacts and environmental aspects
- Farmers to seize society's demand as an opportunity
- Important role for the entire food chain to promote cage-free products
- Animal welfare labelling as a tool to incentivise early transition



Support measures to farmers mainly via the CAP



Member States are encouraged to include measures in their National Strategic Plans (NSP), in eco-schemes and in rural development plans



“When evaluating NSP, the Commission will pay particular attention to the financial support devoted to animal welfare”



Use of the farm advisory services (information & training).

Other accompanying measures

- Best practices, guidelines, recommendations and studies;
- Horizon Europe,
- BTSF, audits, state aids, etc.



Supportive measures: trade

To explore different options on imports in the impact assessment:

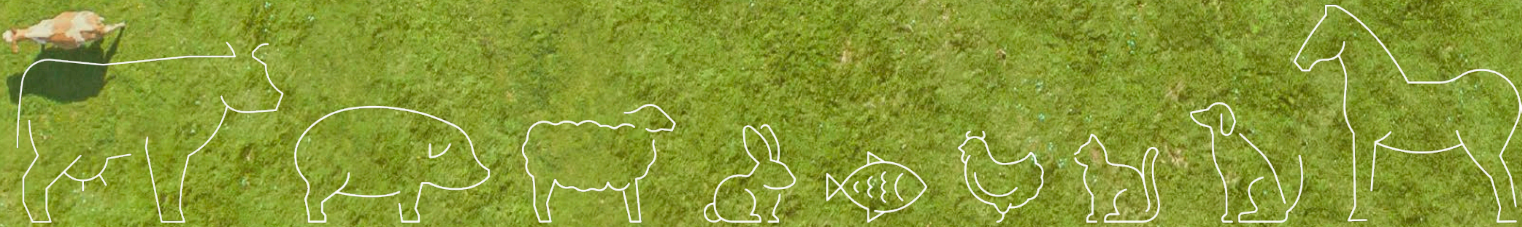
1. enhanced cooperation with trading partners
2. imposing some EU rules on imports
3. animal welfare labelling system that also applies to imports



Promoting animal welfare

- Animal welfare is and will remain a priority for the Commission
- Revision of the legislation – on-going
- Other activities to promote animal welfare
 - EU Platform for Animal Welfare
 - EU Reference Centers for animal welfare
 - The Commission continues working on enforcement of existing legislation (audits and controls)

Thank You!



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