**Agenda**

09.30 to 10.00  Welcome and registration of participants

10.00 to 10.15  *Introduction: Objectives of the workshop on pig welfare*

    *Bernard Van Goethem*, Commission, Health and Consumers DG

10.15 to 11.00  *EU legislation on the welfare of pigs and its current state of implementation in Member States*

    *Terence Cassidy*, The Commission inspection service of Health and Consumers DG

11.00 to 11.25  *Scientific Opinions of the European Food Safety Authority on the welfare of pigs*

    *Professor Bo Algers*, Department of Animal Environment and Health, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

11.25 to 11.35  Coffee break

11.35 to 12.00  *Implementation of group housing of sows in Cataluña: the practical experience of a veterinary practitioner*

    *Dr. Miquel Collell*, Veterinary practitioner, Consultant on pig welfare

12.00 to 12.30  *Case Study No 1: Group housing of sows and providing enrichment material to pigs. Practical implementation in a farm*

    *Annechien ten Have Mellema*, Pig farmer, President of the organisation of pig producers belonging to LTO (NL)

12.30 to 13.00  *Case Study No 2: Providing enrichment material and avoiding routine tail docking and tooth clipping. Practical implementation in farms*

    *Dr. Ruth Clements*, Veterinary practitioner, Food Animal Initiative (UK)

13.00 to 14.30  Lunch break
14.30 to 14.35  Perspectives from the Parliamentary Intergroup on the welfare and conservation of animals
Caroline Lucas, Member of the European Parliament President of the Parliamentary Intergroup on the welfare and conservation of animals

14.35 to 15.00  Economical impact of the implementation of EU legislation
Kees de Roest, Economist, Centro Ricerche Produzioni Animali S.p.A.

15.00 to 15.25  Cross compliance enhances the implementation of EU legislation on pig welfare through raising awareness of farmers
Juan Alvarez de la Puente, Commission, Agriculture and Rural Development DG

15.25 to 15.50  Cross compliance: a useful tool to obtain better implementation of EU legislation on pig welfare. Practical implementation in a Member State
Taina Mikkonen, Head of Animal Welfare Section, Finnish Food Safety Authority

15.50 to 16.20  Case Study No 3: Providing enrichment material and avoiding routine tail docking and tooth clipping/group housing of sows. Practical implementation in a farm
Thierry Schweitzer, Pig farmer, Les fermiers de l'Est S.A. (France)

16.20 to 16.30  Coffee break

16.30 to 16.55  Initiatives to improve compliance with EU legislation on pig welfare
Peter Stevenson, Chief Policy Advisor, Compassion in World Farming

16.55 to 17.15  Perspectives for the future and conclusions
Andrea Gavinelli, Commission, Health and Consumers DG

The meeting will be translated in the following languages: FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-NL-SV-CS-RO
European Commission
Health & Consumers
Directorate General

Workshop on pig welfare

Bernard Van Goethem
Director
Animal Health and Welfare

The views expressed may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of the European Commission
Consumer’s demand

- for food produced with high animal welfare standards
- for more sustainable and higher welfare production, not only for inexpensive pork meat
- there is a need to improve the welfare of pigs kept for meat production
- improvements can be achieved through better implementation of current legislation
Current EU Legislation

General minimum welfare requirements for the protection of farm animals

Specific minimum welfare requirements for the protection of pigs

- Ban the use of individual stalls for pregnant sows and gilts during a period starting from 4 weeks after service to 1 week before the expected time of farrowing and the use of tethers,
- Improve the quality of the flooring surfaces,
- Increase the living space available for sows and gilts,
- Allow the sows and gilts to have permanent access to materials for rooting

From 1 January 2003 these requirements are applicable to all holdings newly built or rebuilt. From 1 January 2013 these provisions shall apply to all holdings.
Implementation of the current EU Legislation

- Overall progress in MS to implement AW requirements for pigs (e.g. end of tethering of sows)

- However, the Commission Inspection Service of DG SANCO shows the lack of implementation of specific requirements
Implementation of the current EU legislation: main issues

- Lack of provisions of enrichment materials
- Routine tail-docking
- Routine tooth clipping
- Stocking densities
- Fibre feed for pregnant sows
- Group housing of sows (mandatory in all holdings from 1 January 2013)
Scientific Opinions on pig welfare from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in Parma


2. Effects of space allowances and floor types on the welfare of weaners and rearing pigs (2005)

3. Housing and husbandry of fattening pigs (2007)

4. Housing and husbandry systems for adult breeding boars, pregnant, farrowing sows and unweaned piglets (2007)

5. Risks associated with tail biting in pigs and possible means to reduce the need for tail docking considering the different housing and husbandry systems (2007)
Scientific Research Projects funded by the Commission

« Welfare Quality-Science and society improving animal welfare in the food chain quality ».  
develops Animal Welfare Indicators which should contribute to a better assessment of the situation on farm

Assessment protocol for pigs already available
Scientific Research Projects funded by the Commission

- PIGCAS « Attitudes, practices and state of the art regarding piglet castration in Europe »

Study funded by the European Parliament

- Pilot study to explore practical alternatives to piglets castration and ways to define EU quality criteria for meat originating from non-castrated pigs
Ongoing initiatives of the Commission

- Report from the Commission:
  „Options for animal welfare labelling and the establishment of a European Network of Reference Centres for the protection and welfare of animals“

- Assessment of the need to revise the general Directive on farm animals as well as other specific legislation (pig directive)
  - General AW legislation supported by the latest scientific knowledge available
  - Based more on the consequences of the different raising systems on animals (Animal Welfare indicators) than on specific provisions on housing, feeding and management systems
Conclusion

Continuous work going on at the Commission in order to improve the welfare of pigs and to increase awareness on this issue among stakeholders and consumer.