

Ms Ursula Von der Leyen
Commission President
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels

Brussels, June 1 2023

Following through on the Farm to Fork and Green Deal commitments as regards the Animal Welfare legislative revision

Dear Commissioner Von der Leyen,

We, the Members of the Animal Welfare Intergroup of the European Parliament, would like to reiterate the importance of the revision of the EU Animal Welfare legislation, in line with the Commission's Farm to Fork Strategy and the Green Deal. The Animal Welfare Intergroup welcomes this revision and trusts the publication of the four proposals will come this autumn.

As you are certainly aware, DG SANTE is in the process of re-submitting its Impact Assessment of the Fitness Check to the Regulatory Scrutiny Board and we trust DG SANTE will be provided with the necessary assistance with its resubmission to ensure the publication of ambitious proposals.

Following the Fitness Check, the current legislation on animal welfare was found to not be fit for purpose. Scientific understanding of animal welfare and the sustainability of our food systems has evolved since the current legislation was adopted and as such, EU citizens demand higher standards when it comes to animal welfare. Members of the European Parliament have echoed this demand in its various resolutions and own initiative reports.

The cost of improving animal welfare is largely outweighed by the cost of our inaction. A [recent study](#) by the Impact Institute found that the external costs of EU animal sourced production and consumption are on average 7.7 times higher than their economic value. The main drivers of such high external cost are low animal welfare, diet-related disease, air pollution, and land use.

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The planned revision is a once in a generation opportunity to bring current laws up to speed with scientific knowledge and the societal expectations EU citizens hold in light of their concerns with climate change, biodiversity loss, antimicrobial resistance and zoonotic diseases.

The Animal Welfare Intergroup counts on the Commission to follow through with its commitments and to present the European Parliament and the Council with a proposal for an ambitious revision to the EU Animal Welfare laws.

Yours sincerely,

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