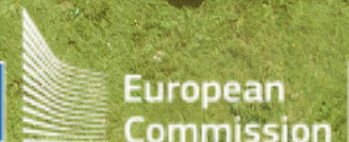


Developing legislation on animal welfare

WOAH Workshop of National Focal Points on AW
25-27 June 2024, Madrid

Stanislav RALCHEV, Policy Officer
DG SANTE, Unit G3 Animal Welfare



The legal context for EU animal welfare laws

Article 43 TFEU (agriculture)



Article 114 TFEU (internal market)

= **LEGAL BASIS**

Article 13 TFEU:

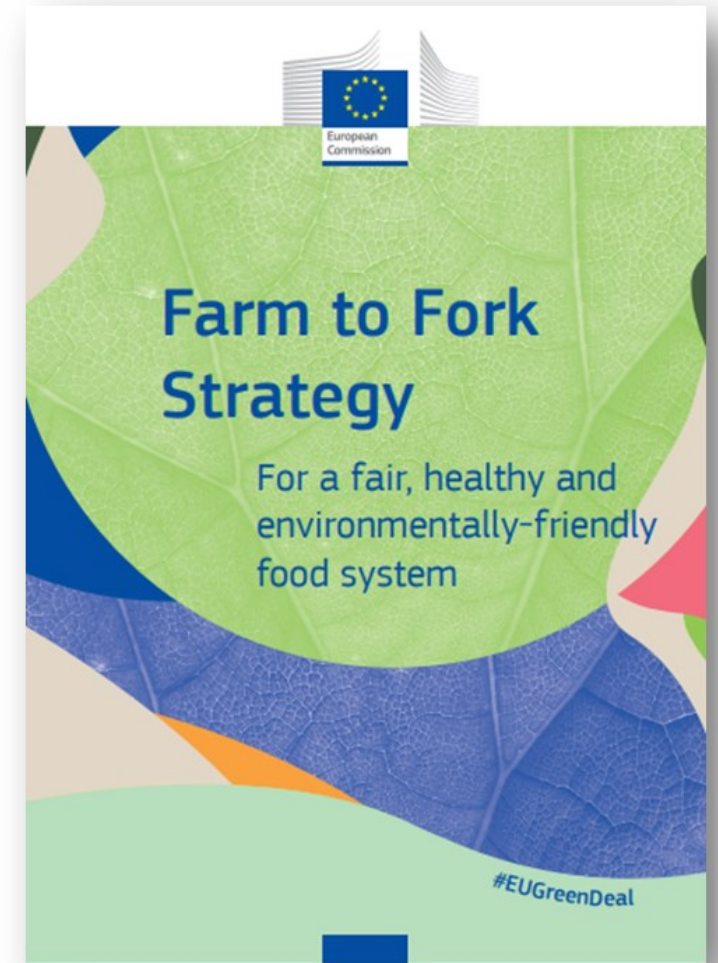
*“In formulating and implementing the Union's agriculture, fisheries, transport, internal market, research and technological development and space policies, **the Union and the Member States shall, since animals are sentient beings, pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals, while respecting the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of the Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage.**”*

Evolving political context 1/2

- **First EU legislation on the killing of animals at slaughter** in the 70s with the scope to avoid unfair competition in the single market.
- Part of the Common Agricultural Policies and financially supported by the Rural Development schemes when standards above the EU ones. Today part of supporting measures are called Eco-schemes.
- The minimum **EU requirements for cages for laying hens** were adopted in the late 80s
- **Welfare of transported animals** started to be regulated in the early 90s
- In 1999 the protocol of the EU “Amsterdam Treaty” defined the **animals as sentient beings**

Evolving political context 2/2

- In 2019 **the European Green Deal**: Make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050 and **The Farm to Fork Strategy** stating:
- *“Better animal welfare improves animal health and food quality, reduces the need for medication and can help preserve biodiversity.”*
- **New Treaty instrument – the European Citizens’ Initiative.** Above 1 million citizens with appropriate geographic and demographic distribution can require the Commission to act:
 1. End the Cage Age
 2. FurFree Europe



Current EU animal welfare legislation

Directive 98/58/EC on **animals kept for farming purposes**

Directive 1999/74/EC on **laying hens**

Directive 2007/43/EC on **broilers**

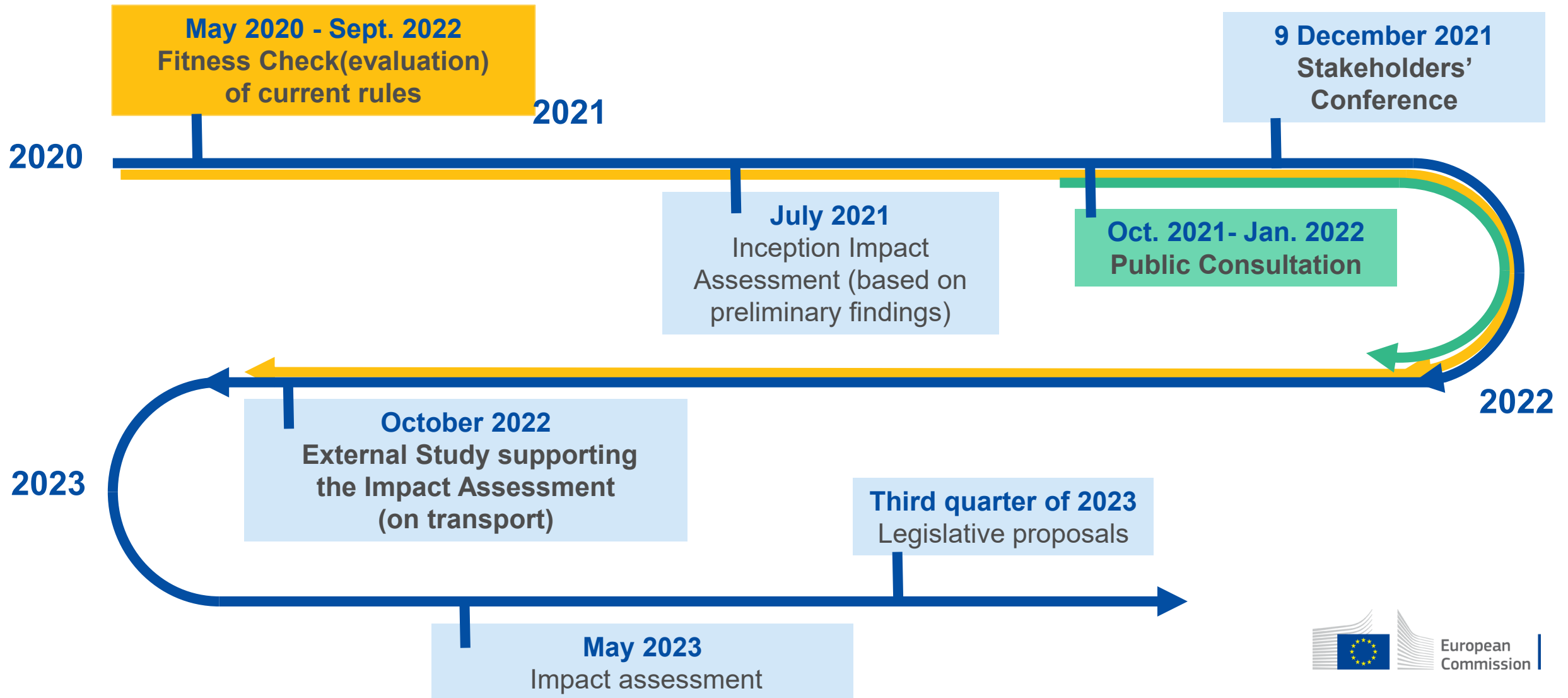
Directive 2008/119 on **calves**

Directive 2008/120 on **pigs**

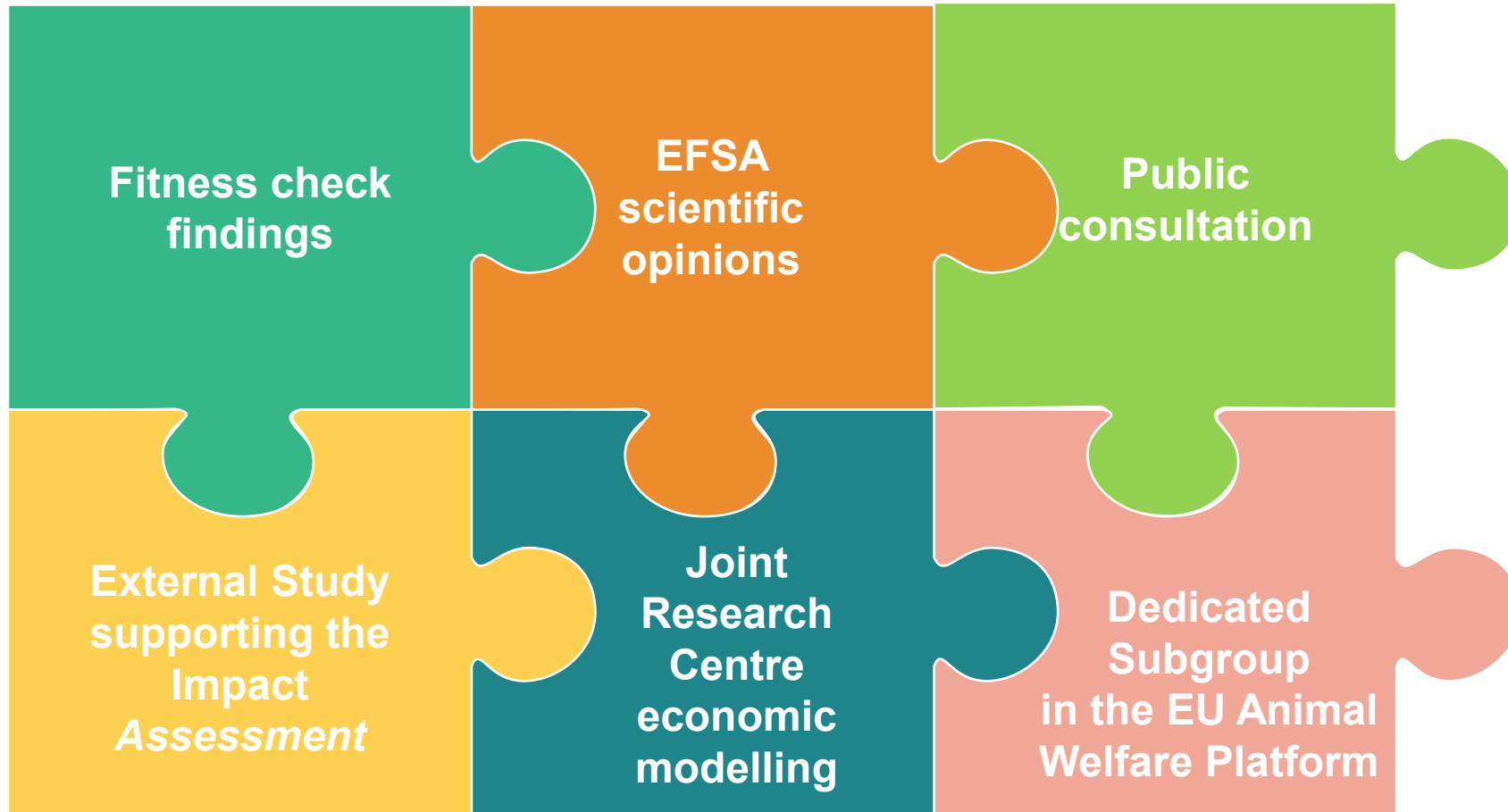
Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on **animal transport**

Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on **slaughter and killing**

Process towards the revision of the EU legislation



Elements in support of the assessment



Fitness Check findings

NEED FOR UPDATE

MONITORING SYSTEM

IMPRECISE PROVISIONS

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12400-Animal-welfare-evaluation-of-EU-rules-fitness-check- en>

What does the European Food Safety authority (EFSA) do?

- EFSA is an independent agency that provides scientific advice on food safety, animal health and sustainability, including on animal welfare
- The Commission, the European Parliament and Member States may request scientific opinions from EFSA
- EFSA expertise is globally recognised and widely used by the EU's multilateral and bilateral partners



EFSA mandates (2022-2030)

2022 - 2023

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



+ 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

External Studies in support to the impact assessment

- External consultant
- Study's main activities :
 - Desk research;
 - Wide spectrum stakeholders consultations;
 - Specific subjects case studies;
 - Validation event.



Impact assessment process

Identification of problems, drivers and (packages of) policy options

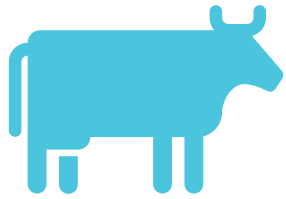
Assessments (quantitative, to the extent possible)

- Animal welfare impacts / Economic impacts / Social impacts / Environmental impacts

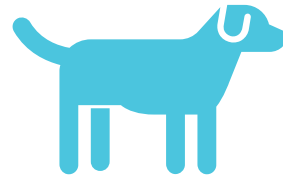
Agricultural Commodity Market Model (JRC):

- Distributional effects / Competitiveness / Food security / Food affordability

Problems (example on animal transport)



Animals are transported in suboptimal conditions



Few requirements for the transport of dogs and cats



Low uptake of new technologies

Drivers



Regulatory drivers (conditions of export difficult to enforce; fragmented internal market due to differing national legislation; overly general provisions; outdated legislation)



Social drivers (increasing societal concerns, including ethics and sustainability)



+ External factors (*market dynamics; climate change*)

Other key & supporting activities



- **EU Platform on Animal Welfare**

- 6 sub-groups on various subjects (i.e. farming, transport, slaughter, labeling etc.)
- All Platform meetings are webstreamed and recorded:
- https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-welfare/eu-platform-animal-welfare/platform-meetings_en

Commission proposals on animal welfare

- Adopted on 7 december 2023:
 - Protection of animals during transport
 - Animal welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability
 - For more details: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_6251
- Ordinary legislative process – now at the level of co-legislators:
 - Council of the EU
 - EU Parliament

Thank you!

