



Connecting animal welfare to citizens' voices



Eurobarometer, 2015 and 2020

- **94%** of EU citizens believe protecting the welfare of farm animals is important
- **82%** believe farm animals should be better protected
- **88%** believe agricultural imports should enter the EU if their production has complied with the EU's environmental and animal welfare standards



Overwhelming citizen support for the European Citizens' Initiative to end caged farming



Citizens' asks are supported by a wealth of scientific literature on animal sentience and welfare, showing the level of animal suffering under intensive farming conditions.

Since the Council Directive 98/58/EC was published in 1998, our knowledge about animal welfare has substantially increased:

Number of scientific publications found by Google Scholar advanced search with the words *animal welfare*

In title of the publication		
1950-1997	2 170	46/year
1998-2021	10 100	439/year
Anywhere in text		
1950-1997	211 000	4 489/year
1998-2021	829 000	36 043/year



We need to change our food systems



Hidden cost for the animals

- Large scale suffering (appr. 9 billion slaughtered in the EU yearly)

Hidden cost for consumers

- Unhealthy diets and resulting disease, healthy diets more expensive

Hidden cost for society

- Malnutrition, spread of AMR and zoonotic disease, subsequent public health cost

Hidden cost for farmers

- Low income, high pressure, more farmers end up giving up their farms

Hidden cost for the planet

- Major cause of GHG emissions, driver of deforestation, water/air pollution, soil destruction/land degradation





Article 13 TFEU recognizes animals as sentient beings

Five Directives

- 98/58 All Farmed Animals
- 1999/74 Laying Hens
- 2007/43 Chickens for meat production
- 2008/119 Calves
- 2008/120 Pigs

Two Regulations

- Regulation 1099/2009 Killing of animals
- Regulation 1/2005 Animal transport

Moving forward

Include species-specific legislation for all animals kept and traded in the context of economic activity

Improve existing rules and update them on the basis of latest scientific evidence

NO to:

- caging animals
- live exports, transport of unweaned & other vulnerable animals
- mutilations (castration, debeaking, tail-docking, dehorning)
- selective breeding / genetic selection for fast growth and high yield
- slaughter methods, such as CO₂ and water bath
- force feeding

Provisions for imports to adhere to EU standards

Support farmers in the transition

Concluding remarks



- Many citizens not fully aware of industrial farming practices, yet a **growing movement against factory farming**.
- We need to change our **food systems** and make them more sustainable and resilient. Low animal welfare, intensive farming systems are not part of the future of farming.
- Great opportunity presented by the **Farm to Fork** to put a concrete strategy in place for the future.
- Consumer behaviour and the market are **evolving**.
- The **EU and EU farmers can spearhead this global change** by embracing high animal welfare, nature-friendly farming.



Thank you for your time.

