

The EU legislation on the protection of animals during transport¹ is being revised to align it with the latest scientific evidence, to broaden its scope, to make its enforcement easier and ultimately, to ensure a higher level of animal welfare. The process of preparing the Commission proposal has been supported by scientific opinions developed by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)²³⁴⁵⁶ that always considers the related animal health, public health, and welfare risks.

Various social, economic, and environmental considerations were taken into account by the Commission in its impact assessment on the proposal⁷. In particular, the Commission looked into the potential impact of the proposed measures on food security and other related elements, including affordability of food for end consumers. For this purpose, the Commission asked the Joint Research Centre to prepare the ‘Modelling of policy options to support the impact assessment accompanying the revision of the EU legislation on the welfare of animals during transport’⁸. The modelling includes an analysis of the impacts of the changes in food prices resulting from the proposed measures on food affordability in the EU.

As the modelling shows, the proposed measures will only have an insignificant impact on the quantities of animal-based products produced, traded and consumed, and on consumer prices. Food affordability will therefore not be substantially impacted. EU and global food security will not be affected.

¹ Protection of animals during transport https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-welfare/eu-animal-welfare-legislation/animal-welfare-during-transport_en

² Welfare of pigs during transport <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/j.efsa.2022.7445>

³ Welfare of equidae during transport <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/j.efsa.2022.7444>

⁴ Welfare of cattle during transport <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/j.efsa.2022.7442>

⁵ Welfare of domestic birds and rabbits transported in containers
<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/j.efsa.2022.7441>

⁶ Welfare of small ruminants during transport
<https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/j.efsa.2022.7404>

⁷ Impact assessment https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/e4e762eb-bdd5-4540-baa5-15d5c0badb21_en?filename=aw_in-transit_swd_2023-401_ia-report_prt-1.pdf

⁸ Modelling of policy options to support the impact assessment accompanying the revision of the EU legislation on the welfare of animals during transport <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/b9c3c05d-94e1-11ee-b164-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>