

EN

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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(30.7.2025)

As announced in the Vision on Agriculture and Food¹, the Commission intends to present a targeted review of the animal welfare legislation, also aiming to follow up on the European Citizens' Initiative 'End the Cage Age'². The Commission will do this in line with the latest science provided by the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA), taking account of ethical, scientific and economic considerations, as well as the EU's multilateral obligations. At this stage, aquatic animals are not included in the scope of the consultations that will be carried out this year in preparation of the on-farm welfare legislative proposal.

Concerning aquatic animals, the Commission is focussing on improved implementation of the existing rules applicable to these animals. The recently established EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare on aquatic animals (EURCAW aqua) will, amongst others, support Member States in carrying out official controls. It will furthermore increase scientific and technical knowledge on aquatic animal welfare needs. Work is ongoing on animal welfare indicators for farmed fish, through the work of the EURCAW aqua, the EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism, as well as an ongoing study on animal welfare indicators.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0075>.

² https://citizens-initiative.europa.eu/initiatives/details/2018/000004/end-cage-age_en.