

EN

E-002054/2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.7.2025)

1. In line with the principles of better regulation, the upcoming legislative proposal on animal welfare on farm will be accompanied by a comprehensive impact assessment, just as the legislative proposal from 2023 on the welfare of animals during transport was¹. These assessments consider the structural differences across Member States, including the diversity of farm sizes and production methods. In addition, the Commission performs extensive stakeholder consultations to take into account the realities on the ground. The objective is to ensure proportionate rules while still achieving the intended welfare outcomes.

2. Based on the outcome of the impact assessment and stakeholder consultations, the Commission will aim to propose proportionate rules for on-farm animal welfare with a gradual approach, species-specific transition period, and to provide farmers with sufficient financial support and time to adapt. The harmonised and modernised rules will also provide farmers with the assurance of a long-term stability for their investments. The transport proposal adopted in 2023 is now in the hands of the co-legislators.

3. Modernising EU animal welfare rules presents a strategic opportunity to enhance the competitiveness of the entire EU livestock sector while fostering innovation. Many of the current EU animal welfare rules are outdated, many Member States have adopted national rules going beyond minimum EU requirements, and private initiatives have flourished, leading to a fragmentation of the internal market and causing distortions in competitiveness. Harmonisation of the standards across Member States will promote fairer competition and a smooth functioning of the single market.

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