

EN

E-004662/2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.3.2026)

As explained in the Vision for Agriculture and Food¹, the Commission is working on an impact assessment of the modernisation of the EU animal welfare legislation on farm for certain animals². The aim is a targeted revision focusing mainly on the follow-up to the European Citizens' Initiative 'End the Cage Age'³, that does not cover animal welfare labelling or animal welfare at slaughter.

The impact assessment will consider both the potential positive effects and the potential costs of modernised and harmonised rules, such as greater long-term regulatory stability for farmers' investments, reduced market fragmentation, enhanced consumer confidence, and opportunities for innovation.

As set out in the Vision, the Commission is also committed to ensuring that any future animal welfare legislative proposals apply the same standards for products produced in the EU and those imported from third countries, in a World Trade Organization compliant way. Based on the impact assessment and stakeholder consultations, the Commission aims to propose proportionate rules, with a gradual approach, species-specific transition periods, and adequate time and support for farmers to adapt. Any cumulative impact on farmers will also be carefully considered in this process and taken into account when preparing a possible upcoming proposal.

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

² https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14671-On-farm-animal-welfare-for-certain-animals-modernisation-of-EU-legislation_en.

³ https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-welfare/eci/eci-end-cage-age_en.