

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000732/26
to the Commission
Maria Noichl (S&D)
(23 February 2026)**

Subject: Follow up to the European Food Safety Authority's 2026 scientific opinion on the welfare of turkeys kept on farms

In February 2026, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published its first scientific opinion on the welfare of turkeys kept on farms. It concluded that many current production systems in the EU expose turkeys to serious, structural and widespread welfare problems, and it proposed concrete, science-based recommendations to address them, including dedicated species-specific legislation.

1. In the light of this opinion, can the Commission explain how it intends to translate the EFSA's findings into EU legislation?
2. In particular, does the Commission plan to propose species-specific rules for turkeys, integrating animal welfare indicators and including minimum space allowances, requirements for litter quality, air quality, lighting and environmental enrichment, as well as measures to phase out painful mutilations?
3. Finally, what is the envisaged timeline for these legislative initiatives, and how will the Commission support further research to address the remaining knowledge gaps identified by the EFSA?

Submitted: 23.2.2026

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(17 April 2026)**

The scientific advice from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) serves multiple purposes, including identifying and assessing relevant negative welfare consequences by using animal-based measures associated with on-farm conditions and providing recommendations to prevent or mitigate the identified welfare consequences.

The Commission is engaged in an impact assessment with a view to modernising the existing legislation on the welfare of animals on-farm, with a sector-by-sector approach, based on the latest scientific evidence and taking into account the different economic, social and environmental impacts of envisaged changes. No decision has been taken yet concerning the scope of the proposal as the impact assessment is still ongoing.

The European Partnership on animal health and welfare ⁽¹⁾, co-funded under Horizon Europe, with EFSA as a member, is already performing some research on welfare of turkeys, including on animal-based indicators, and more may be performed where necessary.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.eupahw.eu/>.