

# Revision of the EU animal welfare legislation



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DG SANTE, Unit G3 Animal Welfare**

# Existing EU animal welfare legislation

Directive 98/58/EC on animals kept  
for farming purposes

Directive 1999/74/EC on laying hens

Directive 2007/43/EC on broilers

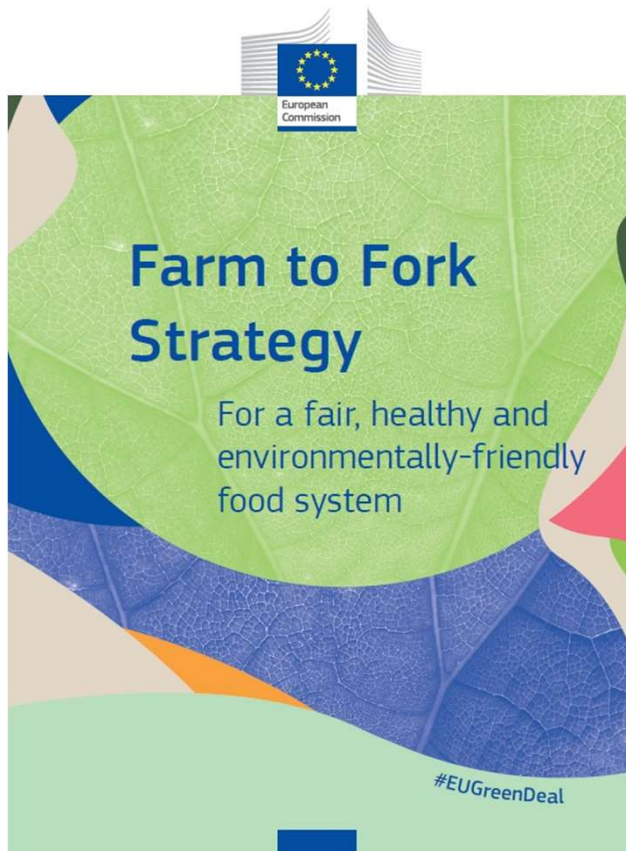
Directive 2008/119 on calves

Directive 2008/120 on pigs

Regulation (EC) No 1/2005  
on animal transport

Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009  
on slaughter and killing

# Farm to Fork Strategy (May 2020)



*“Better animal welfare improves animal health and food quality, reduces the need for medication and can help preserve biodiversity.”*

- *“The Commission will **revise the animal welfare legislation**, including on animal transport and the slaughter of animals, to align it with the latest scientific evidence, broaden its scope, make it easier to enforce and ultimately ensure a higher level of animal welfare.”*
- *“ The Commission will also consider options for **animal welfare labelling** to better transmit value through the food chain.”*

# European Citizens Initiative 'End the Cage Age'

*"The Commission intends to propose to **phase out and finally prohibit** the use of such cage systems, for all the species and categories referred to in the ECI, under conditions (including the length of the transition period) to be determined based on **EFSA** opinions, an **impact assessment** and a **public consultation**."*



1,4 million signatures in all EU Member States

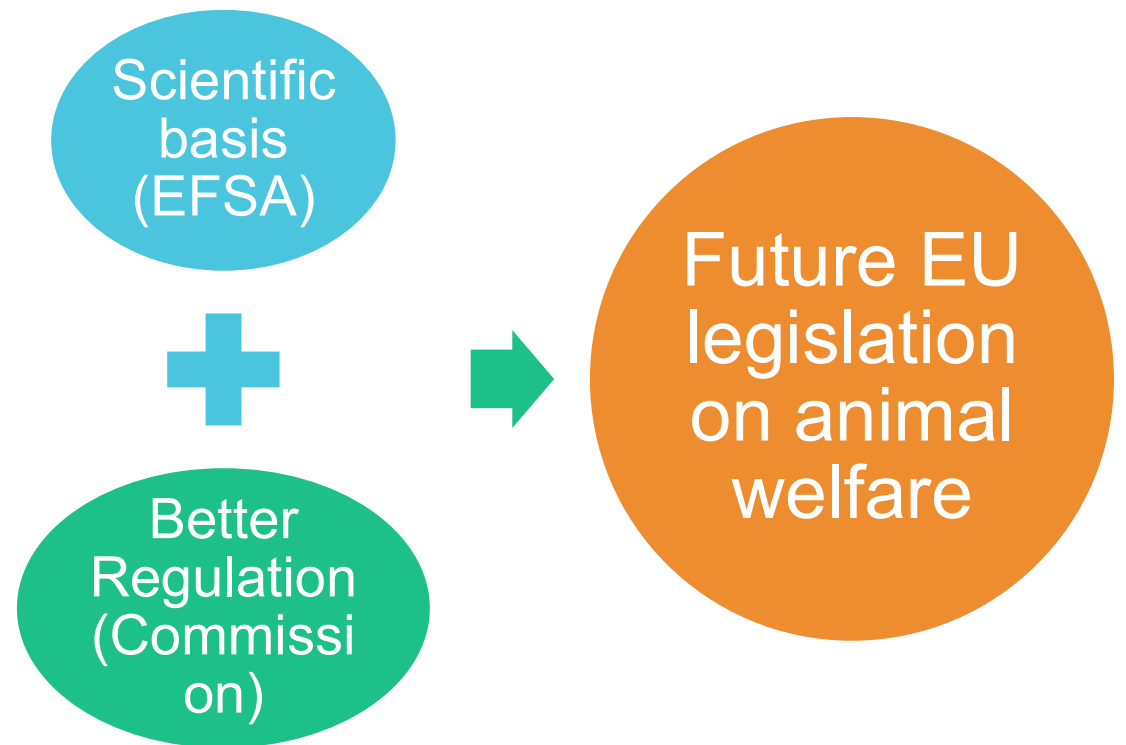
Legislation to prohibit the use of cages for:

laying hens, rabbits, pullets, broiler breeders, layer breeders, quail, ducks, geese, sows and calves.

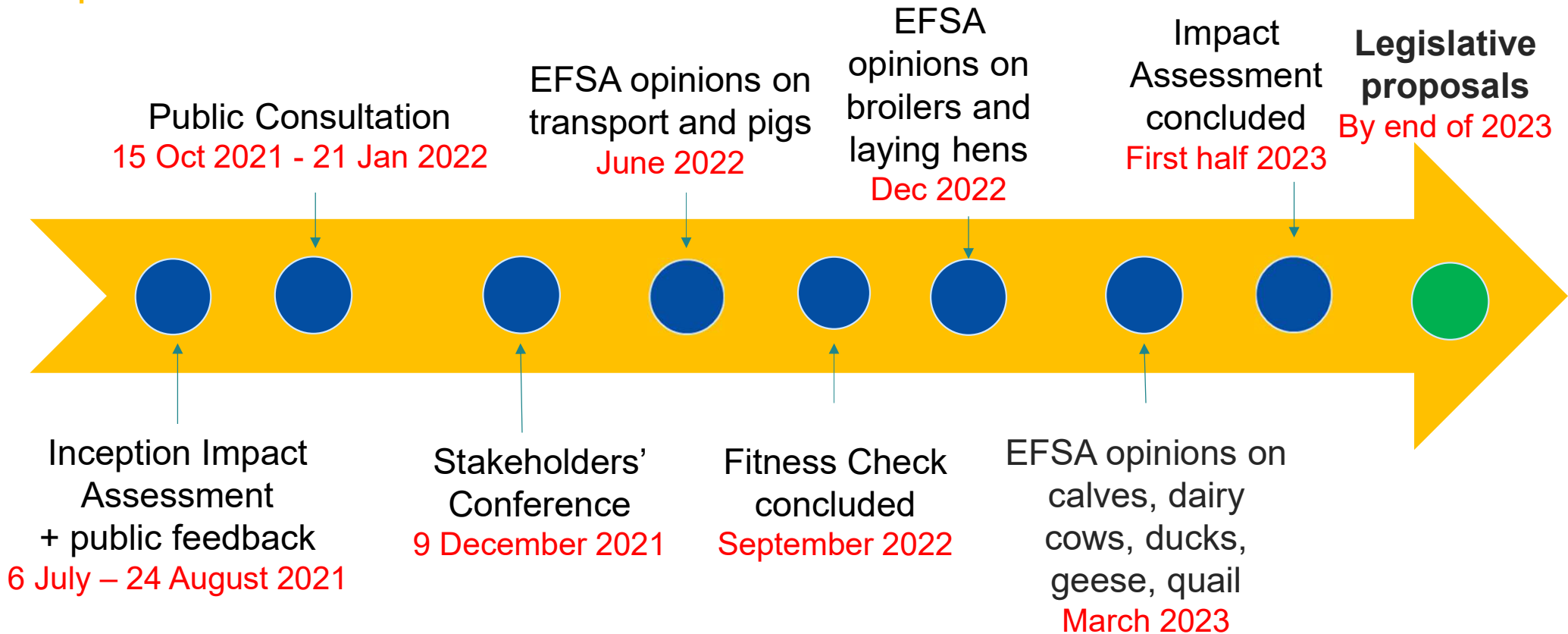
# Revision of EU animal welfare legislation

- Proposals 2023 on updated current EU law + new rules e.g. on dairy cows + empowerments for future rules on other species + possibly animal welfare labelling
- If co-legislators agree: Future specific requirements (to be developed by tertiary legislation) based on Roadmap agreed with EFSA

[aw\\_eval\\_revision\\_roadmap\\_efsa.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)



# Timeline of the process



# Ongoing main EFSA mandates on animal welfare

Mandate*	Agreed deadline
Broilers**	December 2022
Laying hens**	December 2022
Calves	March 2023
Ducks, geese, quail	March 2023
Dairy cows	March 2023

\* Mandates for pigs, transport of various species, rabbits and for slaughter are already available.

\*\* Also addressing broiler breeders, pullets and layer breeders.

# EFSA opinions published so far

EFSA opinions on the welfare of rabbits and slaughter previously published

1 EFSA opinion on the welfare of pigs at farm published in August 2022

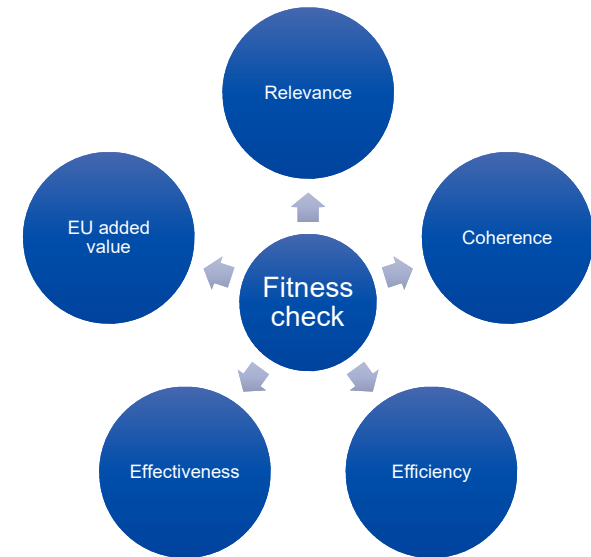
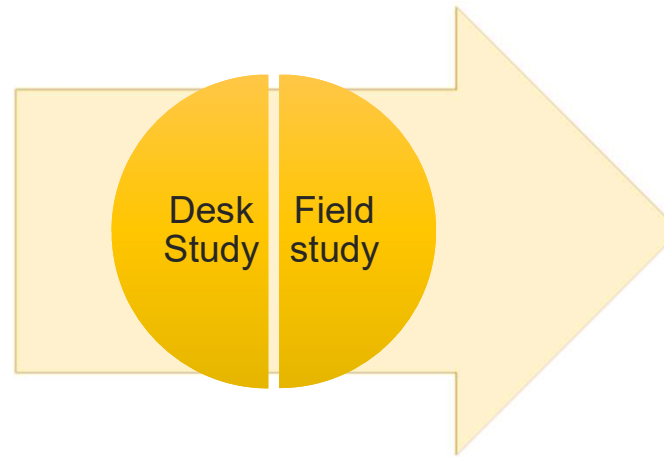
5 EFSA opinions on the welfare during transport published in September 2022:

- Transport of small ruminants
- Transport of equidae
- Transport of cattle (including unweaned calves)
- Transport of pigs
- Transport of domestic birds and rabbits in containers (including day-old chicks)



# Fitness Check

- Evaluation of the existing EU animal welfare legislation



## 5 Directives

- (1) Protection of animals kept for farming purposes
- (4) Protection of laying hens, broilers, pigs, and calves

## 2 Regulations

- (1) Protection of animals during transport
- (1) Protection of animals at the time of killing

# Fitness Check: main findings

Full document published at: <https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-welfare/evaluations-and-impact-assessment/revision-animal-welfare->

ALIGN WITH CURRENT  
SCIENCE

BROADEN THE SCOPE

MAKE IT EASIER TO  
ENFORCE

ADDRESS SOCIETAL  
DEMANDS

- Scientific and technological developments are not fully reflected in current rules
- Sub-optimal level of welfare of animals in the EU in particular where targeted legislation is lacking
- Differences in application and enforcement across the EU, partly due to the vagueness of certain provisions
- Robust indicators for monitoring and triggering improvements in animal welfare are missing
- Increasing societal expectations and ethical concern

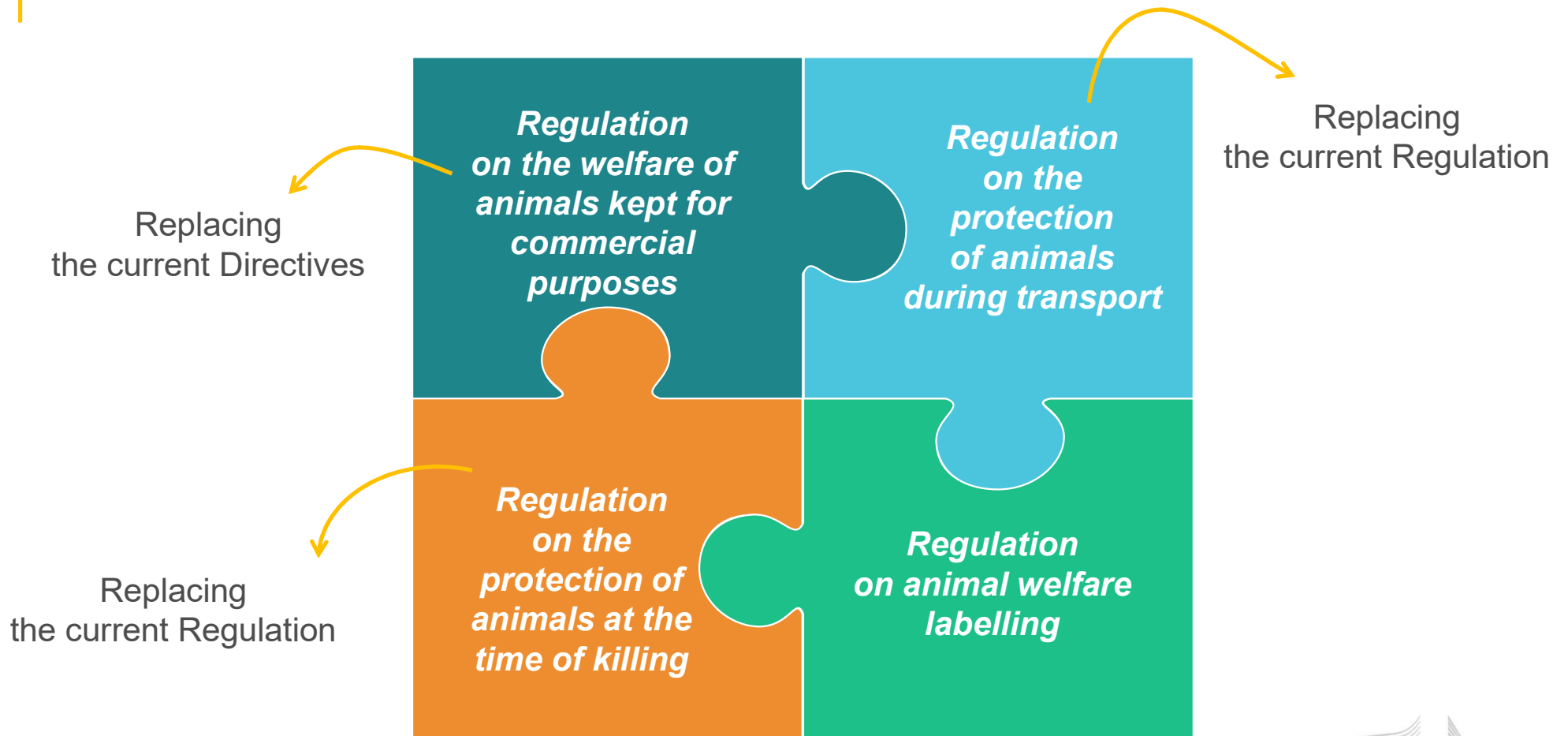
# Impact Assessment: ongoing

Ref. Ares(2021)4402068 - 09/07/2021

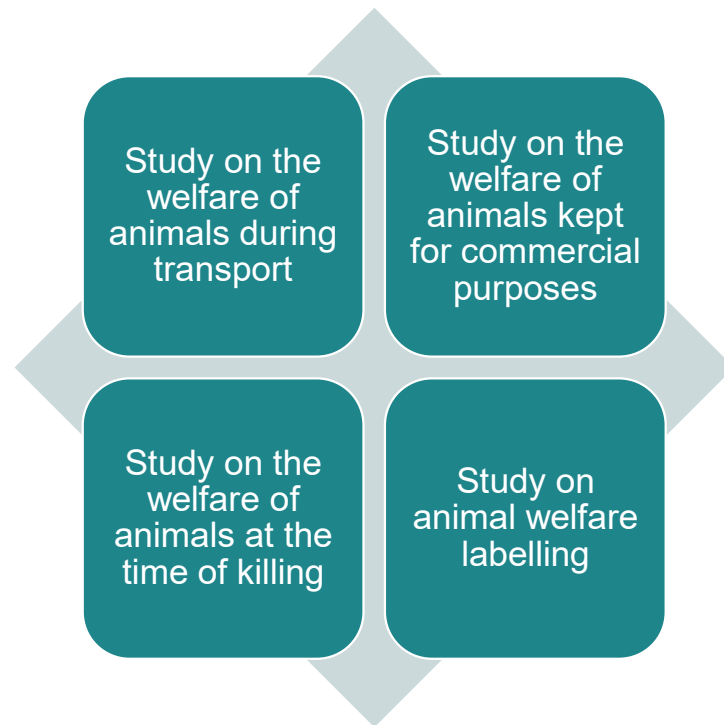
INCEPTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT	
Inception Impact Assessments aim to inform citizens and stakeholders about the Commission's plans in order to allow them to provide feedback on the intended initiative and to participate effectively in future consultation activities. Citizens and stakeholders are in particular invited to provide views on the Commission's understanding of the problem and possible solutions and to make available any relevant information that they may have, including on possible impacts of the different options.	
TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE	Revision of the EU legislation on animal welfare
LEAD DG (RESPONSIBLE UNIT)	SANTE (Unit G5: Animal Welfare and Antimicrobial Resistance)
LIKELY TYPE OF INITIATIVE	Legislative proposal of the European Parliament and of the Council
INDICATIVE PLANNING	Q4 2023
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/strategy/evaluation-eu-legislation-welfare-farmed-animals_en">https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/strategy/evaluation-eu-legislation-welfare-farmed-animals_en</a>
The Inception Impact Assessment is provided for information purposes only. It does not prejudice the final decision of the Commission on whether this initiative will be pursued or on its final content. All elements of the initiative described by the Inception impact assessment, including its timing, are subject to change.	
A. Context, Problem definition and Subsidiarity Check	
<b>Context</b>	
EU animal welfare policy scope and principles derive from Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, which recognises animals as sentient beings. Article 13 also recognises the need to respect the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of the Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage.	
The EU legislation on the welfare of farmed animals consists of a <a href="#">Directive concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes</a> and four Directives laying down minimum standards for the protection of <a href="#">laying hens</a> , <a href="#">broilers, pigs</a> and <a href="#">calves</a> ; one <a href="#">Regulation on animal transport</a> and one <a href="#">Regulation on the protection of animals at the time of killing</a> . In other words, it regulates animal welfare at farm level, during transport and at slaughter.	
The objectives of the EU legislation on animal welfare are to ensure by uniform application and enforcement the welfare of farmed animals, while at the same time allowing rational production and fair competition for EU business operators within the single market, and addressing expectations among citizens and consumers.	
Under the <a href="#">Farm to Fork Strategy</a> (F2F), the Commission committed to revise this legislation and consider options for animal welfare labelling. The purpose of the revision is to ensure a higher level of animal welfare, broaden the scope of the EU animal welfare legislation, align it with the latest scientific evidence and current political priorities as well as citizen's expectations and make it easier to enforce. Animal welfare is a key component of sustainability in our food chain.	
On 30 June 2021, the Commission announced in its <a href="#">reply</a> to the "End of Cages" citizens' initiative that it will put forward a legislative proposal to phase out and finally prohibit the use of cages for certain species in the EU.	
The revision of the EU animal welfare legislation covers animals – including fish and fur animals – bred and kept for farming purposes, as well as cats and dogs insofar as transport for commercial purposes is concerned. It does not cover wild animals, experimental or laboratory animals (with exception for their welfare during transport) or any invertebrate animals.	
To gather evidence to feed into such revision, the Commission initiated in 2020 a fitness check of the current rules on the welfare of animals at farm, during transport and at slaughter, to be concluded in 2022. While the fitness check is still ongoing, available information points to weaknesses in the design, implementation, compliance and enforcement of the EU animal welfare legislation. Among others, the current rules seem to be outdated in light of new science and technology, and the lack of clarity of certain provisions results in divergent transposition and implementation across the EU Member States. In turn, this creates an uneven playing field for EU business operators and poses additional challenges to a proper, effective and uniform enforcement by the competent	

- Inception Impact Assessment published on 06/07/2021 (possible future policy options).
- Feedback largely supports the initiative.
- Public Consultation (ended 21/01/2022): Almost 60 000 contributions, from across the world!
- In 2022: External studies to support the impact assessment.
- Package of legislative proposals by the end of 2023.

# Legislative package in 2023



## 4 main studies in support to the impact assessment

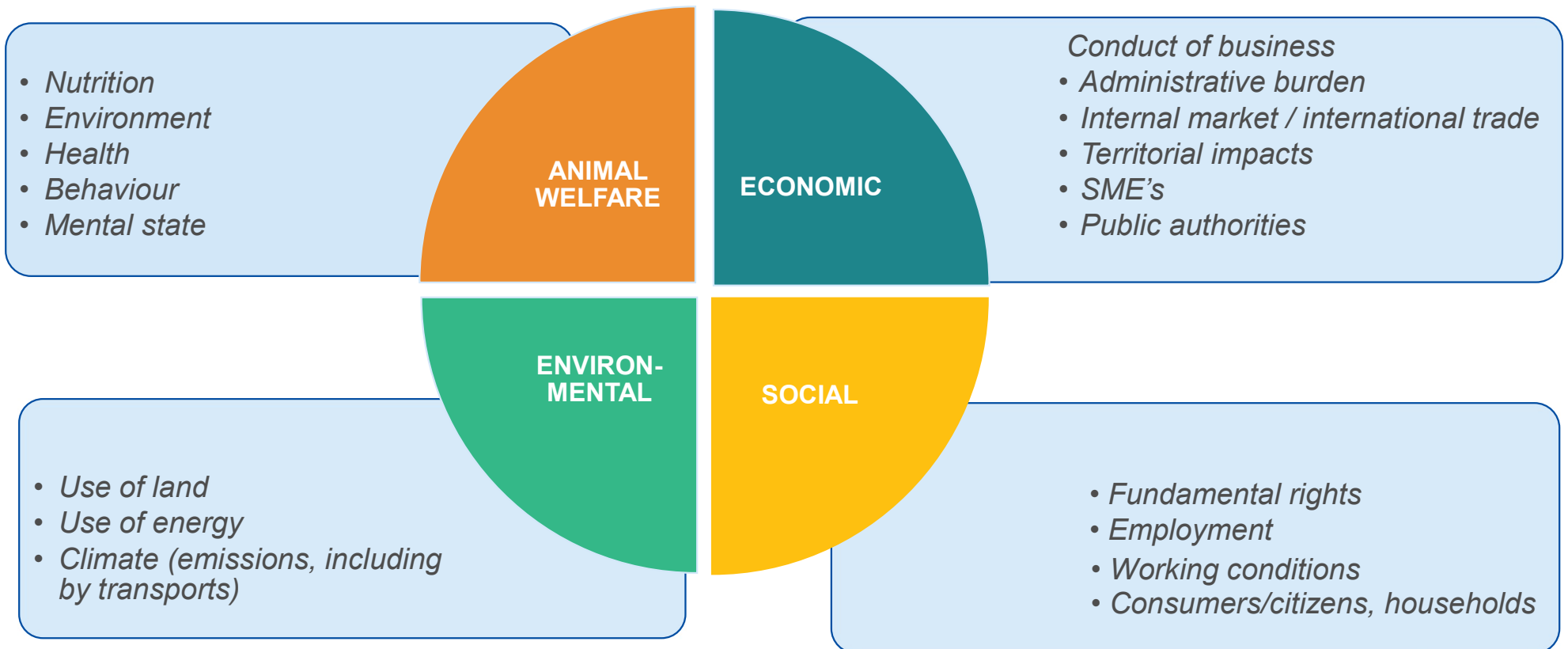


External consultants

Studies' main activities:

- Desk research;
- Wide spectrum stakeholders consultations;
- Specific subjects case studies;
- Validation event.

# Main impacts to assess



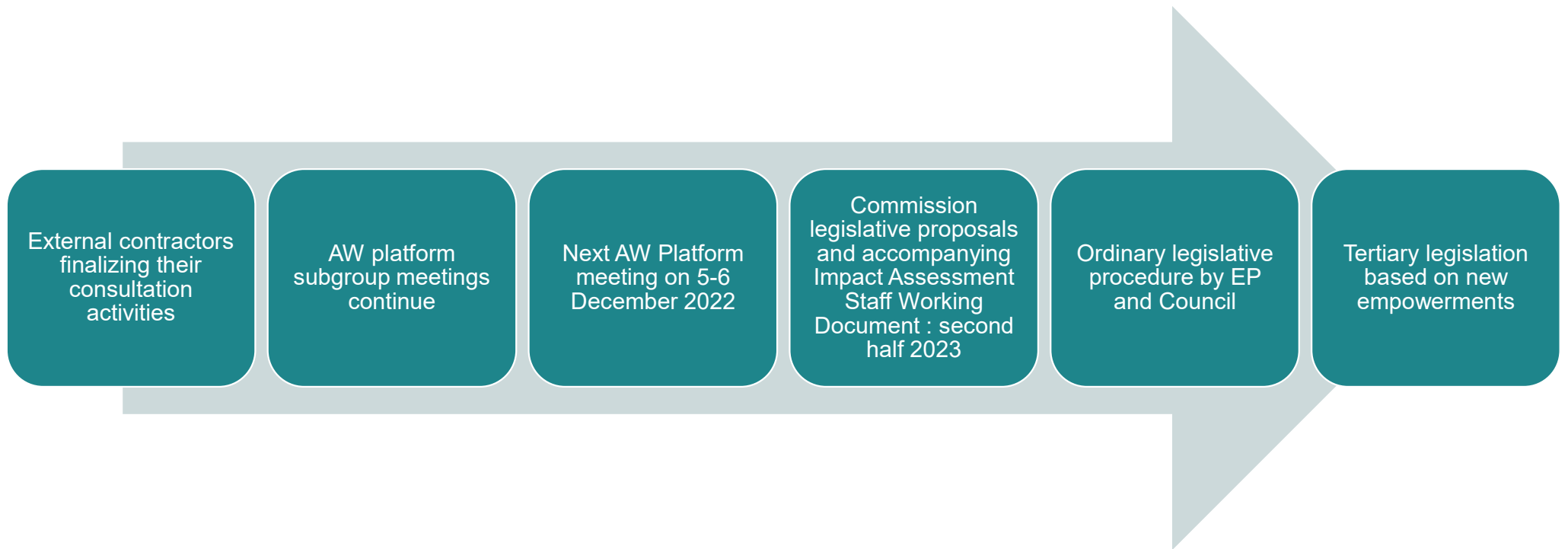
# EU Platform on Animal Welfare

6 sub-groups working since early 2022:  
transport, pigs, calves & dairy cows, poultry, animal welfare labelling, welfare at the time  
of killing

All Platform meetings are webstreamed and recorded:

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-welfare/eu-platform-animal-welfare/platform-meetings\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-welfare/eu-platform-animal-welfare/platform-meetings_en)

# Next steps





**Thank You!**



European  
Commission