



# **ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Where Are We Now and  
Where Are We Heading?

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# INTRODUCTION AND HISTORICAL TIMELINE

## ANIMAL WELFARE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Since its very beginning Slow Food has been working together with farmers and producers, alongside activists, cooks, and experts, to guarantee good clean and fair food for all. The knowledge and experience accumulated constitute the basis for the movement's political fights, among which animal welfare is high on the list.

This document aims at informing on the most recent political developments around animal welfare in the European Union, to outline the future options and to state Slow Food's political demands in the domain.

Since the late 1970s, the European Union has been setting rules for animal welfare as it is an issue of growing importance to European citizens. Ethical and environmental concerns related to the exploitation of animals in an industrialized food system have also shed light on the need to regulate the ways animals are farmed. In addition, better animals' welfare means fewer medical treatments for animals, and a lower risk of diseases. Since the 70s, the legislation has developed and expanded its coverage in response to political, market, and citizens' demands as well as scientific and ethical developments.

The first legislation (1974) regulated the slaughter of animals. It was progressively extended to the transport of animals and different types of animal production.

When the [Lisbon Treaty](#) came into force in 2009, it introduced the recognition that animals are sentient beings.

A **"regulation"** is a binding legislative act. It must be applied in its entirety across the EU.

A **"directive"** is a legislative act that sets out a goal that all EU countries must achieve. However, it is up to the individual countries to devise their own laws on how to reach these goals.

Article 13 of Title II states that: "In formulating and implementing [...] policies, the Union and the Member States shall, since animals are sentient beings, pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals, while respecting the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of the EU countries relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage.

National governments may adopt more stringent rules provided they are compatible with the provisions of the Treaty but Community legislation concerning the welfare conditions of farm animals lays down minimum standards.

Today, legislation on the protection of farm animals covers all the different steps of production from farming, to transport and slaughter. Farming activities are covered by five directives which impose minimum standards while the transport and the killing of animals are covered by regulations which set up similar requirements for all Member States.

These directives and regulations are:

- [Directive 98/581: All farmed animals](#)

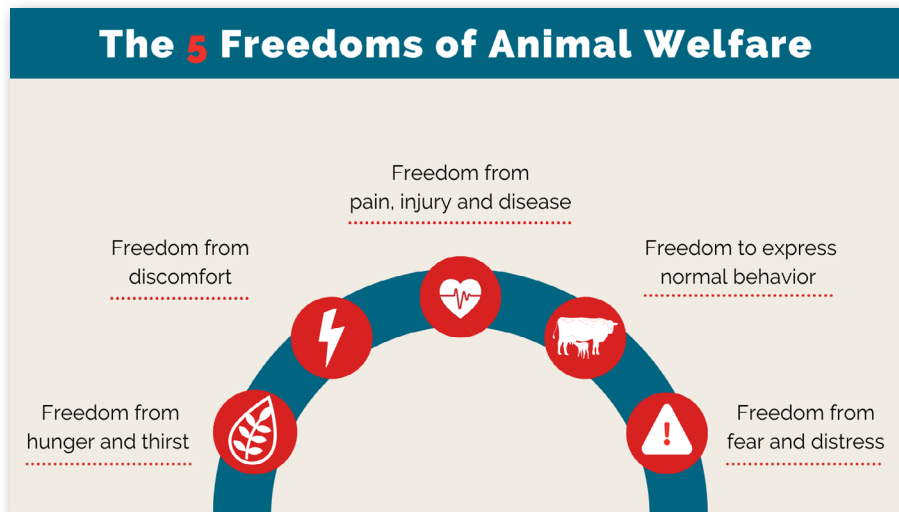
The earliest and most important directive, which regulates the protection of animals kept for farming purposes providing general rules for the protection of animals of all species kept for the production of food, wool, skin or fur or for other farming purposes.



These rules reflect the so-called 'Five Freedoms': based on the [European Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for Farming Purposes](#):

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst
2. Freedom from discomfort
3. Freedom from pain, injury and disease
4. Freedom to express normal behaviour
5. Freedom from fear and distress

Other directives and regulations are specific to either a species, or to a phase of animal farming: [Directive 2008/1193: Calves](#); [Directive 1999/745: Laying hens](#); [Regulation 1/20059: Animal transport](#); [Regulation 1099/2009: Killing of animals](#).



The European Union's [Strategy for the Protection and Welfare of Animals](#) published in 2012 outlined the EU's vision for animal welfare until 2015. While the Strategy demonstrated the EU's commitment to the issue, many areas were not addressed (for example, long-distance animal transport, labelling, well-being of dairy cows, use of antibiotics), as also highlighted by an external [evaluation](#) published in 2021. The evaluation found that the majority of problems and drivers of poor animal welfare conditions identified by the strategy as relevant in 2012 remain relevant in 2021. It highlighted a lack of compliance to EU laws among Member States, the excessive complexity of animal welfare rules, the missing synergies with the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and other policy areas such as fisheries, trade, environment, and transport, as well as the legislative gaps regarding the protection of certain animal species for which no rule exists at EU level (for example, fish). Furthermore, the evaluation found that consumers have limited information concerning animal welfare when buying products.

The Commission is currently working on revising its animal welfare legislation and is not planning a new strategy: since 2015 and until 2020 things have not evolved significantly, signalling the topic had low political priority.

Nonetheless, some steps have been achieved over the years: barren battery cages for hens have been outlawed from 2012, as have sow stalls (after the first few weeks of pregnancy), and the tethering of sows and veal crates allowing the animals to move around and interact socially with others. Also, the recent [citizens' initiative](#) demanding phasing out the use of cages in animal farming has been welcomed by the European Commission and the European Parliament.

Much remains to be done and at the heart of the problem lies a dominant industrial agriculture model which in most cases treats farms as factories and animals as commodities. In addition, issues of enforcement and implementation of EU rules at the Member State level remain to be tackled.

More broadly, the support given to industrial food systems and intensive animal farming, embedded in the [Common Agricultural Policy](#) (CAP) and in the [Common Fisheries Policy](#) represents a strong barrier to a truly sustainable animal farming model that respect animals, humans, and the planet.

[Eurostat data](#) show how smaller farms are disappearing at an alarming rate while larger farms are getting bigger and bigger particularly in the animal farming sector. [Greenpeace has found](#) that 71% of the European Union's farmland is used to feed animals. Next to international market pressure and favourable trade policies, subsidies from the Common Agricultural Policies have driven the intensification of the farming system, through hectare-based subsidies that favour the adoption of industrial methods. The fact that over 50% of the total CAP budget is linked to the animal farming sector goes against the urgent warning by scientists to drastically reduce consumption and production of animal products.

Slow Food calls for clear political commitments and targets to reduce the production and consumption of meat, fish, dairy and eggs, so as to shift towards a sustainable model of production for animal products. As long as productivism will remain the driving imperative of EU's agricultural policy, changes to animal welfare rules will continue to fail to significantly improve animal lives. For the EU to transition towards sustainable food systems, animal welfare must be placed at the core of any future food or farming policy, starting with the EU Farm to Fork Strategy.

Below are the most relevant and recent developments in the area of animal welfare in the European Union.



Slow Food Archive, Villsau Sheep, Slow Food Presidium, Norway

# THE EU FARM TO FORK STRATEGY

## A STRONG COMMITMENT FOR 2020-2030

With the arrival of Ursula von der Leyen's European Commission in 2019, animal welfare has found a central space in EU food policy commitments and is finally being considered as one of the core elements of the necessary transition towards sustainable food systems. In December 2019, the European Commission presented its flagship [European Green Deal](#), an umbrella strategy to make the EU's economy sustainable by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities and making the transition fair and inclusive for all.

The EU Green Deal is composed of several regulations and strategies addressing interconnected policy sectors, two of which will play a significant role in transforming our food systems: the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) and the [EU Farm to Fork Strategy](#) published on 20 May 2020, which Slow Food has analysed in detail in its policy brief "[What do the new EU Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies mean for Slow Food?](#)".

The Farm to Fork Strategy is a 10-year plan to accelerate the transition to a sustainable food system by taking an integrated approach that addresses the environmental, agricultural, and public health aspects of food. It lists 27 measures in its Action Plan which it says will pave the way for greener food production, healthier and more sustainable diets, and less food waste.

Among the measures, several pertain to improving animal welfare conditions and animal farming in general.



Slow Food Archive, Alsace Black Chicken, Slow Food Presidium, France

Importantly, the Commission has shown concrete commitment to the issue by announcing that they will initiate an evaluation and revision of the existing animal welfare legislation, including on animal transport and slaughter of animals, due for 2023; that the new EU Strategic Guidelines on Aquaculture will support the review of animal welfare legislation; and that it will consider options for animal welfare labelling, which today remains voluntary and largely unregulated, leaving companies to use unclear claims and Member states developing their own voluntary schemes.

More generally the EU Farm to Fork Strategy states that "there is an urgent need to reduce dependency on pesticides and antimicrobials, reduce excess fertilisation, increase organic farming, improve animal welfare, and reverse biodiversity loss."

With these words, the European Commission is making a clear pledge for animal welfare in the EU. However, the commitments under EU Farm to Fork Strategy, whilst going in the right direction, need to be translated into legislation and adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU in order to become binding; the coming months will be crucial to influence this process and to make sure that the revised animal welfare legislation (planned in 2023) is equipped to face the challenges of food sustainability as well as ethical issues.

In October 2021 The European Parliament has shown its support to the animal welfare plans put forward in the Farm to Fork Strategy through a [resolution](#) on the file, by also recognising "that healthy animals require less natural resources and that sustainable livestock management practices can lead to reductions of GHG emissions".

# ECI « END THE CAGE AGE »

## CITIZEN POWER TO DEMAND POLICY CHANGE

The '[End the Cage Age](#)' European Citizens Initiative (ECI - a tool proposed by the European Commission to enhance citizens direct participation in policy making) was launched on 11 September 2018 by a coalition of NGO with the goal of collecting 1 million EU citizen signatures within a year. The ECI had one clear demand: to ban the use of cages in animal farming across the EU, as cages have been demonstrated to seriously impede on farmed animals' wellbeing and natural behaviours.

With the support of over 170 organisations, among which Slow Food, the ECI exceeded its goal and reached over 1.4 million validated signatures in 12 months, demonstrating EU citizens' desire for animal-friendly food. Specifically, the "End the Cage Age" ECI called on the European Commission to propose legislation to prohibit:

- the use of cages for laying hens, rabbits, pullets, broiler breeders, layer breeders, quail, ducks, and geese
- farrowing crates for sows
- sow stalls, where not already prohibited
- individual calf pens, where not already prohibited

As a response to this strong citizen mobilization, in the summer 2021 the European Commission [announced](#) its intention to put forward a legislative proposal to "phase out and finally prohibit the use of cages for all the animal species and categories referred to in the initiative" by 2023.

The initiative also aimed to address imported products, meaning that the same rule on the use of cages should be applied to products imported to the European Union. This proposal will be part of the revision of the animal welfare legislation and will have to gain the approval of the European Parliament and Member States before coming into effect.

This response is a clear sign that the European Commission sees animal welfare as a central aspect of sustainable food systems. In addition, this ECI has demonstrated that public pressure and coordinated action among civil society organisations can lead to great policy changes and represents a successful example of democratic and collective action in changing the food system towards sustainable and ethical practices.

## EUROPEAN CITIZEN'S INITIATIVE

The ***European Citizens' Initiative (ECI)*** is a European Union (EU) mechanism aimed at increasing direct democracy by enabling "EU citizens to participate directly in the development of EU policies". It was first introduced in 2007 with the Treaty of Lisbon. The initiative enables one million citizens of the European Union, from at least seven member states, to call directly on the European Commission to propose a legal act (notably a Directive or Regulation) in an area where the member states have conferred powers onto the EU level.



# ANIMAL WELFARE LABELLING

## POTENTIAL AND LIMITATIONS

Currently, little information regarding animal's lives is required in the EU, and only for a limited number of products: an indication of origin (place of birth, rearing and slaughter) has been mandatory for beef and beef products since 2002. An indication of the country of origin, of rearing and of slaughter has been obligatory for unprocessed meat of swine, sheep, goat, and poultry since 2015; but the same does not apply for processed products and derogations are in place for minced meat. In addition, this indication does not give information about welfare, but only about origin. At present, there is only one EU-wide compulsory system of labelling on animal welfare, which applies to table eggs and defines different production methods (cages, free range, barn, etc.)

Member States have the possibility to go beyond the EU standards and impose further requirements. Denmark, for instance, has implemented an [animal welfare label](#) for fresh pork products in 2017 (which expanded to beef and poultry in 2019). Private labels and certifications currently have a leading role in providing information to consumers, but often risk providing partial and/or unclear information.

The current lack of legislative harmonisation on animal welfare labelling, which poses serious limits for the right of consumers to know how their food is produced and allows for the development of different schemes with different rules across the EU, might change in the coming years. In its Farm to Fork Strategy, the EU Commission referred to labelling as “a central instrument to provide consumers high-quality information, regarding the sustainability level of food production, the nutritional value of food items, as well as consumer information related to animal welfare”.

Following mounting pressure from civil society, the European Commission has established a working group dedicated to developing options for animal welfare labelling within the [EU Animal Welfare Platform](#). Slow Food has been member of the Platform since 2017.

The working group on animal welfare labelling presented the main conclusions of their work in June 2021: it identified animal welfare labelling as an important source of information for consumers, which allows them to differentiate businesses which follow higher standards. The group rightly identified the whole cycle of production as scope for labelling, but called for a voluntary rather than mandatory approach, citing the reluctance of Member States as the strongest barrier to a compulsory one.



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Labels that aim to inform consumers about their food, including on animal welfare, face considerable challenges to inform in a systematic and exhaustive way.

It is very complicated to strike the right balance between providing clear and simple information to consumers to make choices easier and informing them properly about the implications of their food choices.

## SLOW FOOD & LABELLING

Slow Food defends citizens' right to know how the food on their plate is produced, where it comes from, and under which conditions; yet resistance from food and agriculture industries to be transparent about this information continues to make it difficult for citizens to be properly informed. The lack of a robust and transparent labelling system prevents consumers from making conscious food choices and does not properly reward farmers that choose more animal-welfare friendly systems.

### Slow Food believes that:

Animal welfare labelling should go beyond informing on the farming method (such as outdoor/indoors, grazing vs fed). It should aim to include all aspects of the animal's life cycle, like transport and slaughter conditions, information regarding feed type and origin, living conditions, animal density.



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Camembert, Slow Food Presidium, France

Animal welfare labelling must be designed in a way that incentivises producers to go beyond the minimum legal requirements; they should avoid that basic compliance with the minimum legal requirements regarding animal welfare be used to promote the increased consumption of animal products.



Slow Food Archive, Girgentana Goat, Slow Food  
Presidium, Sicily, Italy

Since 2011 Slow Food has been promoting and implementing the [Narrative Label](#), with the aim to tell the full story about the product and build a stronger connection and trust between the producer and the consumer. Such a label portrays information describing the local area where the product is produced, as well as sensory properties. For example, a label for meat or cheese describes the animal breeds, types of farming and feed (if forage and feed are produced by the producer or certified GM free), area of pasture, animal welfare practices, farming method, processing, and ageing methods). Retail actors such as Alce Nero have decided to use it for some of their products.

# LIVE ANIMAL TRANSPORT

## LAGGING BEHIND?

Every year, millions of live animals are transported within and outside European Union territory. Animal's transport occurs for transporting animals for slaughter, for breeding purposes, from one farm to another, for fattening, etc and it is often the result of the high specialisation of production cycles: for example, a region is specialized in breeding, another one in fattening, and another one in slaughtering and processing. In other cases, the reason is trade: on the market animals are expected to be sold alive.

Approximately 3.5 million sheep and goats, 4.3 million head of cattle, 33.4 million pigs, and 1 000 million poultry were traded alive between EU countries in 2018 according to the [EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service](#), while for extra EU transport it is less of 10% of these numbers. As reported in the Meat Atlas 2021, on a global level, live animal transport has been rising steadily, with almost 2 billion animals traded in 2017. And while in the EU land transport has a general limit of 8 hours a day, the rule has many derogations and there is no time limit for waterways travels: their journey may last for weeks.

Inevitably, every journey causes sufferance. The main concerns relating to live animal transport pertains to: stress (animals are sentient beings, and are not used to be moved on vehicles), overcrowding (animals are normally crammed in small spaces for the travels), exhaustion and dehydration (especially in the hottest summer months); unexpected situation can cause a prolongment of the trip, [incidents](#) can occur where animals lose their lives. In addition, live animal transport favours the spread of illnesses and diseases.

[EU legislation](#) regulates the protection of animals during transport, with a set of good principles, such as avoiding long journeys whenever possible, avoid injuries and undue suffering, and making not only the transporter, but all actors involved (farmers, traders, slaughterhouses) accountable for the travel conditions. However, [investigations](#) through the years have shed light on the horrible conditions in which animals are transported and raise ethical concerns and doubts on whether the regulation is fit for purpose.

As a reaction, in 2020 the European Parliament has set up a “[Committee of inquiry on animal transport](#)” to investigate “alleged violations in the application of European Union law on the protection of animals during transport and related operations within and outside the EU”.

The move, which was very welcomed by Slow Food and animal welfare organisations, has generated a momentum and Member States and the European Commission are now taking [steps to change the status quo](#), by a revision of the animal transport legislation as part of the Farm to Fork Strategy.

The EU must commit to drastically limiting live-animal transport to distant slaughterhouses and long journeys by supporting the availability of facilities in the proximity of farms and by strengthening staff skills and competencies also by simplifying paper-based procedures and structural requirements. Well-managed mobile slaughterhouses and on-farm slaughter should be developed as they considerably improve EU animal welfare standards and avoid long journeys to slaughterhouses.

An immediate result would be the strengthening local food systems in a way that they become more resilient; farmers would be more connected to their territories and consumers more aware of where their meat comes from.



# CELL BASED MEAT

## A SOLUTION OR A THREAT?

In recent years, much scientific research has been dedicated to developing meat substitutes based on animal proteins produced in laboratories using cell culture techniques. These methods are said to both address the ethical concerns related to animal farming and animal suffering and tackle the environmental concerns consumers have, without them having to change their eating habits.

Whilst meat substitutes made from plant proteins have been on the market in several countries for years (for example many consumers are now familiar with legume-based burgers), cultivated meat (also known as cellular meat, cell-based meat or in vitro meat) is not yet on EU shelves. Because of its high production costs, cultivated meat is not yet price competitive with meat produced on farms, and there are still considerable technical challenges to overcome.

In the coming years, cultured meat could become an alternative for consumers, but its production and consumption pose crucial questions: is the production of these substitutes more sustainable in terms of energy use? How can we prevent this new market from being co-opted by the multinationals that already control the food system? How should new meat alternatives be defined and regulated by law? How should we face the use of growth hormones for the cell's growth or the use genetically modified products as inputs? And what would the role of animals in complex and integrated agroecosystems become?

As reported in studies such as the FAO's [Livestock and Agroecology](#), and the [Meat Atlas 2021](#), from an ecological point of view, extensive and sustainable animal farming maintains landscapes, conserves the local ecosystem, and protects agrobiodiversity. Animals play a significant role in agroecological practices that protect ecosystems and farmers' livelihoods. These systems are worth to be preserved and supported, as a fundamental node of sustainable food systems.



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For Slow Food's analysis of the current developments on meat substitutes, please consult our [briefing](#).

# ANIMAL BIODIVERSITY AND LOCAL BREEDS

## THE KEY FOR BETTER ANIMAL WELFARE

The role of animal biodiversity is a central issue for guaranteeing animal welfare and the sustainability of animal farming.

In Europe and North America, local breeds have almost completely disappeared and survive mostly thanks to hobby farmers. The main threats to domesticated animal biodiversity are mostly led by the diffusion of industrial farming as the dominant production model, which are focused on selective breeding for fast growth and high yields.

Among the main drivers of the loss of local breeds are indiscriminate crosses, the rise in consanguinity or inbreeding, the introduction of exotic breeds, the lack of public conservation policies, poor competitiveness with commercial breeds' yields, the loss of pastures, and environmental pollution. Epidemics and natural disasters can also contribute to their extinction. Imported breeds often replace local ones, considered less productive, even if they can hardly adapt to the new environment: they are therefore kept in anonymous stables, and are often treated with invasive drugs that are dangerous to the environment and our health. They also tend to need a high input of imported feed, as they would not survive in the outdoors and need standardised diets.

The modern Western production model is the foundational element generating negative effects all along the chain. Productivism has encouraged the selection of around 30 livestock breeds designed for maximum yield of milk or meat and their suitability for intensive farming, but it poses serious concerns about the welfare of these hyper-productive species.

Animal farming is becoming increasingly geographically distant and separate from crop cultivation, with animals ever more often reared in stables that do not allow access to outdoor space and pastures, treated extensively with medicines, fed on feed and transported over long distances. Productivity has increased, but to the detriment of ecosystem health, biodiversity and animal welfare.

Saving local breeds is fundamental for many reasons, both economic and environmental, social and cultural. Over millennia, animal breeds have adapted to different climates and environments and to hostile conditions (arid, cold, swampy, etc.) and marginal areas, where the presence of humans can actually help protect the environment.

More genetically diverse animal populations also are less susceptible to large-scale epidemics. Local breeds—more resistant, hardy, fertile and long-lived, used to making the most of poor pastures for millennia—improve producers' chances of surviving climate change and allow animals to live a satisfying life outdoor.

Favouring local breeds, which have adapted to a specific geographic area over time, helps preserve biodiversity and demands farming practices that are more respectful of animal welfare.

We need a paradigm shift in the relationship between humans and farmed animals, with a consistent reduction of farmed animals and a greater respect for the relation of the animals with the surrounding ecosystem and their natural needs as sentient beings.

Consult our full [position paper](#) on biodiversity  
"If Biodiversity is alive so is the planet" !

# SLOW FOOD'S POLITICAL DEMANDS

In light of the analysis of the political developments in the field of animal welfare, and in line with the philosophy that encompasses all Slow Food projects with farmers, producers, activists, experts, cooks, etc, who are part of the Slow Food international movement, below are the main political demands that we are going to advocate for in the oncoming years.

## WE RECOMMEND THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS TO:

- Explicitly acknowledge that the overproduction and overconsumption of animal products, and intensive animal farming are at the root of poor animal welfare and develop a dedicated action plan towards less and better consumption and production of meat, dairy, and eggs in the EU and to shift away from industrial farming.
- Drive the transition to agroecological farming through clear targets and deadlines to reach a healthy, sustainable, and animal-friendly food system.
- Adopt an EU Common Food Policy to bring coherence between all European policies that shape our food systems, including those that affect the welfare of animals, in order to tackle the interrelated issues of climate change, biodiversity loss, soil health, rural development, social, and economic justice.
- Follow the One Welfare approach — which recognises that animal welfare, biodiversity and the environment are connected to human well-being, an extension of the [One Health](#) approach — as guiding principle for animal welfare policies.
- Acknowledge that the biodiversity of domesticated animals plays an essential role in guaranteeing animal welfare and support the farming of locally adapted and biodiverse animal breeds, following the commitments made in the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030.
- Legally bind animal welfare legislation to other European policies such as the Common Agricultural Policy, the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies, Trade Agreements, Fit for 55 Climate Package, Europe Beating Cancer Plan.
- Facilitate the establishment and uptake of small-scale and/or mobile slaughterhouses to diminish suffering of animals during transport and end of life stress.
- Support farmers in the transition to agroecology and animal friendly practices through economic incentives and training.
- Provide better information to consumers as proposed in the Farm to Fork Strategy and go beyond by developing EU-wide animal welfare labelling that includes information concerning the different stages of the animals' lives, the welfare and farming conditions, the type and origin of feed used, information regarding transport and slaughter.



- Avoid pursuing “techno-fixes” as the key to improving animal welfare and sustainability: the development of cell-based animal products does not represent a valid alternative to extensive agroecological farming.
- Include fish in the animal welfare legislation.
- Guarantee a swift phasing out of the use of cages in animal farming as [promised](#) by the European Commission in June 2021.
- End live animal exports outside the EU and impose stricter rules for intra EU transport, limiting to solely necessary and only local travel the journeys for live animals; additionally adequate space allowances should be guaranteed, and transport of unweaned animals should be prohibited
- Impose these same standards on products entering the EU market from abroad, through a revision of the General Farming Directive 98/58 to protect farmers from unfair competition, avoid incoherencies with what is being done in the EU and contribute to improve animal welfare conditions and sustainable food systems globally. Importantly, trade deals should reflect these standards.



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# WHAT SLOW FOOD IS DOING

Animal welfare is a core component of Slow Food's 'good, clean and fair' approach to food production and consumption. Slow Food's actions on animal welfare revolve around three main areas.

## BIODIVERSITY

Working alongside producers to have a direct impact on the conditions in which their animals are raised. In addition, through the Ark of Taste, we make sure to map domesticated biodiversity of animal breeds. We support and encourage cooks from around the globe to source their meat responsibly and from agroecological producers, as well as searching and promoting plant-based alternatives in the local cuisine.

## EDUCATION

Promoting educational initiatives on farm animal welfare and meat consumption. Through dedicated campaigns, Slow Food wants to work to raise awareness among consumers on the importance of reducing meat consumption and choosing meat from extensive farms that pay particular attention to high quality, natural feed, and the natural behaviour of animals.

## ADVOCACY

Building dialogue and sharing our positions with decision makers. Based on the direct experience of Slow Food producers, and knowledge and expertise from experts and activists from the Slow Food Network, we develop clear political demands in order to make sure policy sets the basis for improved animal welfare in the EU and in third countries.

### For more references please consult

- Slow Food [animal welfare general criteria](#)
- Slow Food [Presidia guidelines](#)
- Slow Food [Position Paper on Biodiversity](#)
- Slow Food [Policy Brief on the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies](#)

## ABOUT SLOW FOOD



Slow Food is a global, grassroots organization, founded in 1989 to prevent the disappearance of local food cultures and traditions, counteract the rise of fast life and combat people's dwindling interest in the food they eat, where it comes from and how our food choices affect the world around us.

Since then, Slow Food has grown to become a global movement that involves millions of people in more than 160 countries and works so that we can all have access to good, clean and fair food.

Slow Food believes food is tied to many other aspects of life, including culture, politics, agriculture and the environment. Through our food choices, we can collectively influence how food is cultivated, produced and distributed, and thus change the world.

[www.slowfood.com](http://www.slowfood.com)



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