

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 22 June 2021 09:30 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	EU Platform on Animal Welfare
CONVENED BY	Mr Ladislav Miko, EU dialogue Convenor for the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/27852/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Member State
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	European Union

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

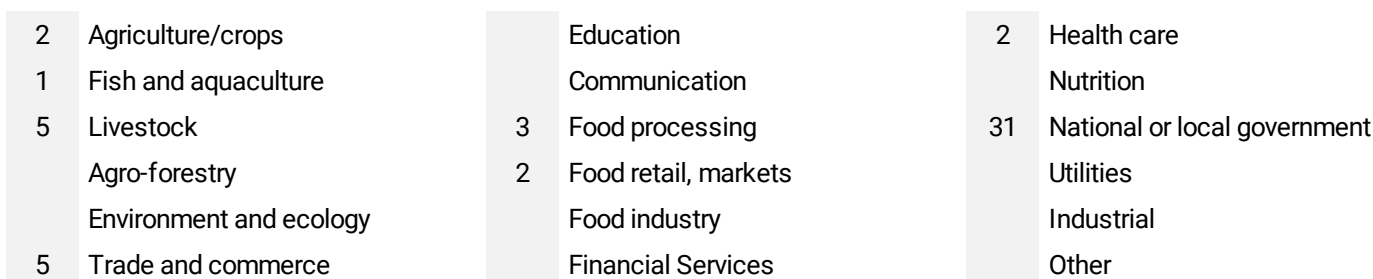
PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE



PARTICIPATION BY GENDER



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP



2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

The Commission Expert Group “EU Platform on Animal Welfare” includes 74 members representing 27 EU Member States + EEA + Switzerland national authorities, international organisations, businesses, professional association representatives and civil society and scientists. The Dialogue was held at the plenary meeting of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare in the context of the EU dialogues in preparation of the Summit. Its Principles were introduced by EU dialogue Convenor.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

Our Dialogue reflected all specific aspects of the Principles starting by recognising the urgency of sustained action at all levels to reach the respective 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The Platform, by definition, promotes food production practices that strive resilient food systems while recognizing its complexity and necessity of inclusion in it a wide range of stakeholders. Platform members’ are constantly working in promoting trust by evidence-based solutions to improve animal welfare.

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

It is very important to respect and to stick to the Principles of Engagement as it influences the main lines of the Dialogue and thus its outcomes.

3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?

Yes

No

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

Our Dialogue allowed emphasising that the EU Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy have similar objectives with the UN Food Systems Summit, which are to create sustainable and resilient food systems. Animal welfare is a cross-cutting issue present in all five action tracks aligned with the Summit's five objectives: to ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all; to shift to sustainable consumption patterns; to boost nature positive production; to advance equitable livelihoods and to build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress. Therefore, to succeed in the task of creating sustainable and resilient food systems in which animal welfare plays a key role, we need to address all complexity of the food systems and to identify the challenges link to its transformation, to use to this purpose best available scientific knowledge and to identify gaps that requires more research and innovations. The involvement of all stakeholders is necessary to achieve the set-up objectives. All animal welfare actions set-up by the Farm to Fork Strategy can be categorised along these objectives.

ACTION TRACKS

	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
✓	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
✓	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

✓	Finance	✓	Policy
✓	Innovation	✓	Data & Evidence
	Human rights	✓	Governance
	Women & Youth Empowerment	✓	Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

The participants to the Dialogue agreed on the necessity to create sustainable and resilient food systems, which can only be achieved by an active involvement of all stakeholders of the food chain: farmers, agricultural service providers, food processors, government, scientific community, distributors, transporters, retailers, consumers. The large number of the stakeholders contributes to the complexity of the food system as each of these parties has different business and sustainability motivations and skills, which need to be incorporated into the sustainability plan. For instance, a major concern for farmers is the conversion costs of the current production system requiring long-term investment.

Two main animal welfare actions set-up by the Farm to Fork Strategy were discussed more in details: the preparations for the revision of the EU animal welfare legislation (so called fitness check and planned impact assessment) and the conclusions of a subgroup as regards an EU animal welfare label.

The revision of the EU animal welfare legislation with a view to align it with the latest scientific evidence, broaden its scope and make it easier to enforce will ultimately ensure a higher level of animal welfare. The participants agreed that the revision of the EU animal welfare legislation is needed and that a new legislation has to cover more animal species than currently the case.

Nevertheless, the benefits that animal welfare legislation could bring are hindered by the fact that consumers are insufficiently aware of EU standards. To remedy this situation, another major objective of the Farm to Fork Strategy is to explore options for possible animal welfare labelling to better transmit value through the food chain. In this context, a large part of the discussion was devoted to the conclusions on animal welfare labelling elaborated by a respective sub-group of the Platform. According to this subgroup, the establishment of an EU animal welfare label could ensure an equivalent level of information level for consumers across the EU. It would offer consumers the possibility to choose their food on the basis of the level of animal welfare that they are willing to pay. It could also increase transparency in the market and provide better protection to EU producers who apply high standards. At the same time, it will offer business operators, including farmers, the opportunity and incentives to improve their animal welfare standards at their own pace. The group agreed that the scope of an EU animal welfare multi-tier label should include the whole cycle of production, including transport and slaughter for farmed animals for food production.

Achievements of these two major projects will reshape EU animal welfare policies so to correspond to the general ambitions of the Farm to Fork Strategy in terms of sustainability of the food chain.

In addition, the meeting discussed the European Citizens' Initiative "End the cage age" and the representative of the European Parliament demonstrated that it fits perfectly with the Food Summit Systems objectives.

Some members underlined the importance of including animal welfare standards in trade agreements with third countries as a necessary condition for achieving a global sustainable food system.

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KEYWORDS

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

- 1) Revision, by the Commission, of the EU animal welfare legislation on farm animals, transport and slaughter, by the end of 2023, to align it with the latest scientific evidence, broaden its scope and make it easier to enforce. The challenge to face is a very tight time-schedule and the need for a solid analysis of impact of a wide range of issues to address in this revision.
- 2) Recommendation by the subgroup that the Commission puts forward a proposal of an EU animal welfare label to better transmit value through the food chain. The challenge would be to find an agreement of all relevant parties as to the scope of the label, its technical requirements and its voluntary versus mandatory character, and to ensure that the label does not lead to excessive administrative burden.
- 3) Response by the Commission on the Citizens' initiative request to phase out cage farming system in the EU. Challenges: the large scope of animals included, different farming systems in Member States, economic costs for farmers and consumers, need for a transition period.
- 4) Transport of live animals. The main challenge consists in improving the transport conditions to guarantee the welfare of animals during the whole journey.

ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
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KEYWORDS

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<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

1) Livestock production

On one hand, there were opinions on an absolute need to reduce the livestock production in the EU because of the climate damage (CO2).

Opposite voices have underlined the importance of meat in the healthy diet; worries about higher meat price in case of its lower production, therefore problems for people with a low income; economic consequences for farmers and their families as well as an unfair competition from third countries.

2) Animal welfare transport

Some would like to ban long distance transport of live animals, while some consider it as a vital for farming production.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

RELEVANT LINKS

- **EU Platform on Animal Welfare**
https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-welfare/eu-platform-animal-welfare_en