



State of implementation Group housing of sows in the EU

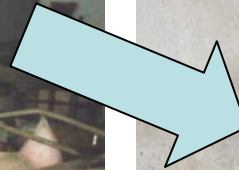
Stakeholders' and Member States meeting
Brussels, 19.3.2012
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Directive 2008/120/EC on the protection of pigs

- Article 3(4): MS shall ensure that sows and gilts are kept in groups during a period starting from 4 weeks after the service to 1 week before the expected time of farrowing.
- From 1.1.2013, group housing of sows compulsory in all EU pig holdings with 10 sows or more
- Group housing of sows already a EU requirement in new pig holdings since 1.1.2003 in EU-15 MS and date of accession in EU-12 MS.
- Derogation to group housing of sows for holdings with fewer than 10 sows

Directive 2008/120/EC on the protection of pigs: Group housing of sows





Directive 2008/120/EC on the protection of pigs

- Requirement for group housing of sows was adopted in 2001 and gave a **long transitional period** to MS and producers to adapt.
- Directive on the protection of pigs was part of the **acquis** for new MS.
- Commission does not intend to propose postponing the legal deadline

Directive 2008/120/EC on the protection of pigs

- Additional requirements of Directive 2008/120/EC regarding sows will apply from 1.1.2013
- Space allowances
- Concrete slatted floors
- Manipulable materials



Implementation of group housing of SOWS

- MS are primarily responsible for the implementation
- Obligations of MS under Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on official controls
 - controls on welfare in farms on a risk basis (Art 3)
 - actions in case of non compliance (Art 54)
 - sanctions effective, proportionate and dissuasive applicable in case of infringements to animal welfare rules (Art 55)
- Commission as guardian of the Treaties shall ensure that MS apply EU welfare legislation



Actions taken by the Commission

- Commission worked for a progressive implementation of group housing of sows in the last recent years
- Better enforcement of the existing EU legislation is a priority
- The Commission is using all the tools available at EU level in order to push Member States to comply with the legislation



Implementation plan of the Commission for 2012

- Collection of data and national action plans from the MS
- Increasing communication on the issue
- Training of official veterinarians
- Audits of the Food and Veterinary office
- Preparatory work in order to be ready to launch infringement procedures against non compliant Member States as from 1.1.2013
- Letter from Commissioner Dalli to ministers of agriculture
- Task force DG AGRI/DG SANCO: financial support Rural Development Programmes and internal market issues

State of implementation (1)

- **Estimations** on 19.3.2012 on the basis of the data sent by the Member States
- **12 MS estimate they will fully comply by 31.12.2012**
- 7 MS at least 90% compliant holdings by 31.12.2012
- 5 MS 70% to 89% compliant holdings by 31.12.2012
- 3 MS no previsions for 31.12.2012 and current level of compliance ranges from 28% to 55-60% compliant holdings

State of implementation (2)

- Main category of estimated non compliant holdings are holdings with a capacity of 10-99 sows
- Significant efforts needed to reach compliance for some of the MS which are major EU producers



Group housing of sows: Achieving full compliance

- Non compliance from 1.1.2013 will create a distortion of competition
- Evolution of the situation is followed by Third Countries
- No mandatory labelling of farming systems for piglets, pigmeat and pig products: no practical means to differentiate between animals and products obtained from compliant or non compliant farms after 1.1.2013.
- Challenge for the pig sector, the MS Authorities and the Commission

Thank you for your attention

