



# State of implementation Group housing of sows in the EU

**Advisory Group on Pigmeat**

**Brussels, 12.4.2012**

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12.4.2012



## 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

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# 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





## 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

12.4.2012





# State of implementation (1)

- **Estimations** on 12.4.2012 on the basis of the data sent by the Member States
- **15 MS estimate they will fully comply by 31.12.2012**
- 5 MS at least 90% compliant holdings by 31.12.2012
- 4 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 65-70% compliant holdings
- Progress made by MS towards compliance since the Commission started collecting data

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## 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





## Main outcomes of stakeholders and Member States meeting on 19.3.2012 (1)

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/seminars/docs/agenda\\_19032012\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/seminars/docs/agenda_19032012_en.pdf)

- Unfair competition
- No mandatory labelling for pig farming systems
- Concerns about potential drop in pig production
- Imports from Third Countries
- Guidance regarding concrete implementation
- Concerns for countries which are net importers of piglets

12.4.2012





## Main outcomes of stakeholders and Member States meeting on 19.3.2012 (2)

- Financial support through rural development programmes
- Cross compliance
- Sanctions to be taken by MS in case of non compliance
- Infringement procedures

12.4.2012





# Thank you for your attention



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