



## **European farmers' views on compartment and biosecurity**

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Stockholm, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014

# Who are Copa and Cogeca?

## **Copa – European farmers**

Bringing together 57 EU farmers' organisations

## **Cogeca – European agri-cooperatives**

Bringing together 31 EU agricultural cooperative organisations

## **Two organisations...**

- representing 13 million farmers and their families
- as well as around 38,000 cooperatives
- 70 Member and 34 Partner Organisations
- 7 working languages: EN, FR, DE, IT, ES, PL, RO

# Biosecurity and disease prevention

# Animal health and biosecurity measures

1. Farmers are very committed to prevent disease and take their responsibility
  - Outbreaks on their farms
  - Spread of diseases into the environment
2. Biosecurity is not a new concept, but needs further promotion across EU Member State
3. Good animal health is key to good production

# Animal health and biosecurity measures (II)

1. Avoid prescriptive rules (“top down”), ensure flexibility to address real concerns on farms – outcome based and keep it simple!
2. Not in favour of extending HACCP principles to primary production
3. Consider voluntary quality assurance schemes and good practices already implemented on farm
4. **Costs and benefits to be fully considered**
5. Incentives needed (e.g. Vet Fund, Rural Development Programmes, etc)

# Disease prevention is a shared responsibility

1. Welcome Commission's focus on "prevention is better than cure"
2. No need of prescriptive rules ("top down") but rather flexible to address real concerns on farms and outcome based approach
3. Disease prevention goes beyond farmers' responsibility – A holistic view or a joint venture is needed!
4. Farmers, transporters, slaughterhouses, veterinarians, travellers and society – the entire chain together play a role !

Which role for authorities ?

# Knowledge transfer and professional experience is crucial

1. All operators need to ensure some basic knowledge of animal health and biosecurity
2. Farmers' experience is often under estimated - better recognition is needed
3. Member State authorities responsible to support vocational training programmes
4. Avoid further administrative burden/costs – no need to prove competences

**Farmers organisations, veterinarians and authorities have to continue to jointly raise awareness on disease prevention and good management**

# Animal health visits

1. Reject the Commission's proposal on animal health visits
2. High risk that it becomes a paper work exercise and no benefits for farmers
3. No estimation of costs and benefits !
4. Avoid fixed criteria and desk office approach to decide frequency and further details of the visits.
5. Ensure an open and constructive dialogue with veterinarians or any other advisor (!) based on farmers' needs

**Building trust, knowledge transfer and exchange of information between operators and authorities have proven to be much more successful**



# Disease prevention: is the toolbox full ?

1. Are all relevant tools available at farm level to ensure good animal health ?
  - Good hygiene and proper feed, appropriate environment, good management
  - Veterinary medicines, including vaccines, to tackle specific diseases
  - Early warning systems
  - On farm tools for early , rapid diagnosis and control of diseases
  - More resistant breeds

# Antimicrobial resistance and the animal health law

1. Biosecurity and good management of herds play an important role in reducing also antimicrobial resistance
2. Several provisions in the animal health law (e.g. biosecurity, use of veterinary medicines, etc) can address AMR
3. However, prudence is needed on how to link AMR to the new animal health law !
4. Microorganisms which have developed resistance to antimicrobials should not be considered a diseases (concern on the European Parliament position)

# Compartments and disease management

# Movement of animals in the EU

1. Differences between countries and regions in health statuses must be taken into account
2. Compartments, in line with OIE standards, may be a useful tool to consider
3. If needed, restrictive measures on the movement of animals shall be science based and proportionate to the risk
4. No hindering the movement of animals, and the functioning of the internal market

**Our common interest is to ensure healthy animals everywhere in Europe**

# Conclusions

1. Good animal health is at the heart of farmers' management practices
2. Awareness raising is important, but also recognition of farmers' expertise
3. Important to consider costs and benefits of good practices
4. Disease prevention is a shared responsibility
5. Guarantee reliable public intervention (e.g. EU Vet Fund)
6. Ensure a good functioning of the internal market



# **Copa-Cogeca:**

## **Defending and developing the European Model of Agriculture**