

European Commission Health and Consumer Protection Directorate General

Animal Welfare in the European Union

European holstein & Red holstein Confederation (EHRC)

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*The views expressed may not in any circumstances be regarded as
stating an official position of the European Commission*

Animal Welfare in 2010: still an expanding policy area

- Animal welfare policies in the EU are today an issue of high public concern and political relevance.
- The critical link between animal welfare, animal health and food safety has been widely assessed.
- Animal welfare is no longer considered a *"sentimental issue"*



Animal Welfare - Basic Principles

The “Five Freedoms”

- From discomfort
- To express natural behaviour
- From hunger and thirst
- From fear and distress
- From pain, injury and disease



Why animal welfare?

- The Treaty
- Internal market

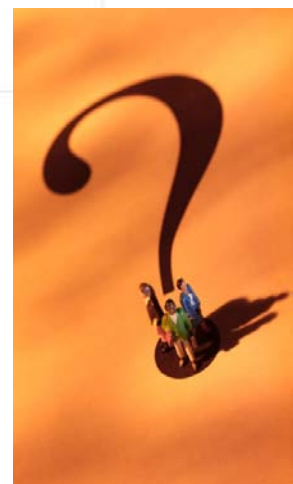


Treaty of Lisbon

“In formulating and implementing the Union's agriculture, fisheries, transport, internal market, research and technological development and space 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 Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage.”

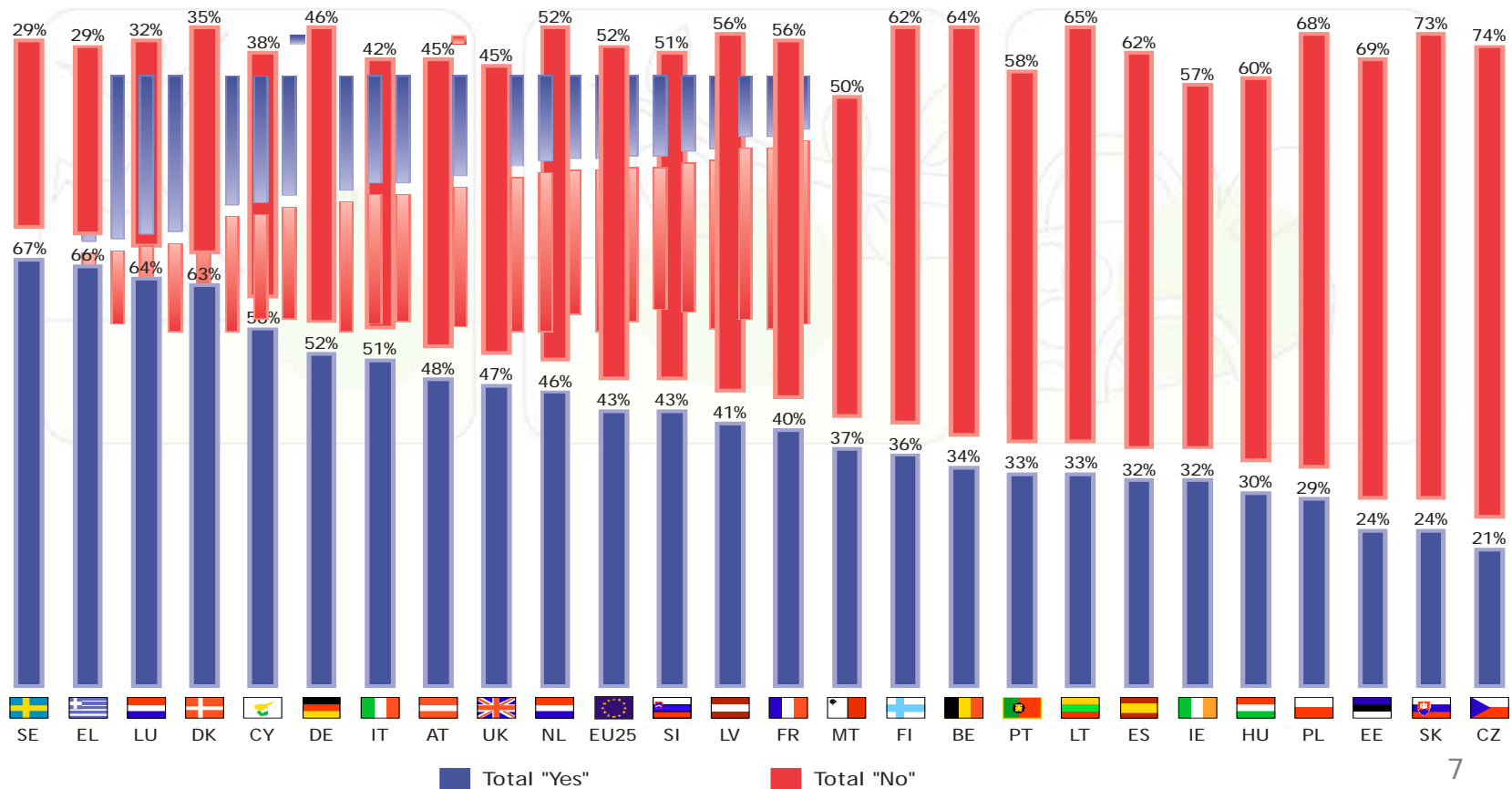
EUROBAROMETER survey - 2005

- 82% believe we have a duty to protect animals whatever the cost
- If we improve animal welfare...
 - 80% believed it would certainly result in better animal health
 - 74% believed products would certainly be more ethically acceptable
 - 58% believed it would certainly result in better food quality
 - 57% believed it would certainly result in better food safety



EUROBAROMETER survey - 2005

Thinking about animal welfare when purchasing: EU average 43%



EUROBAROMETER survey – 2006:

57% would pay extra for AW friendly products

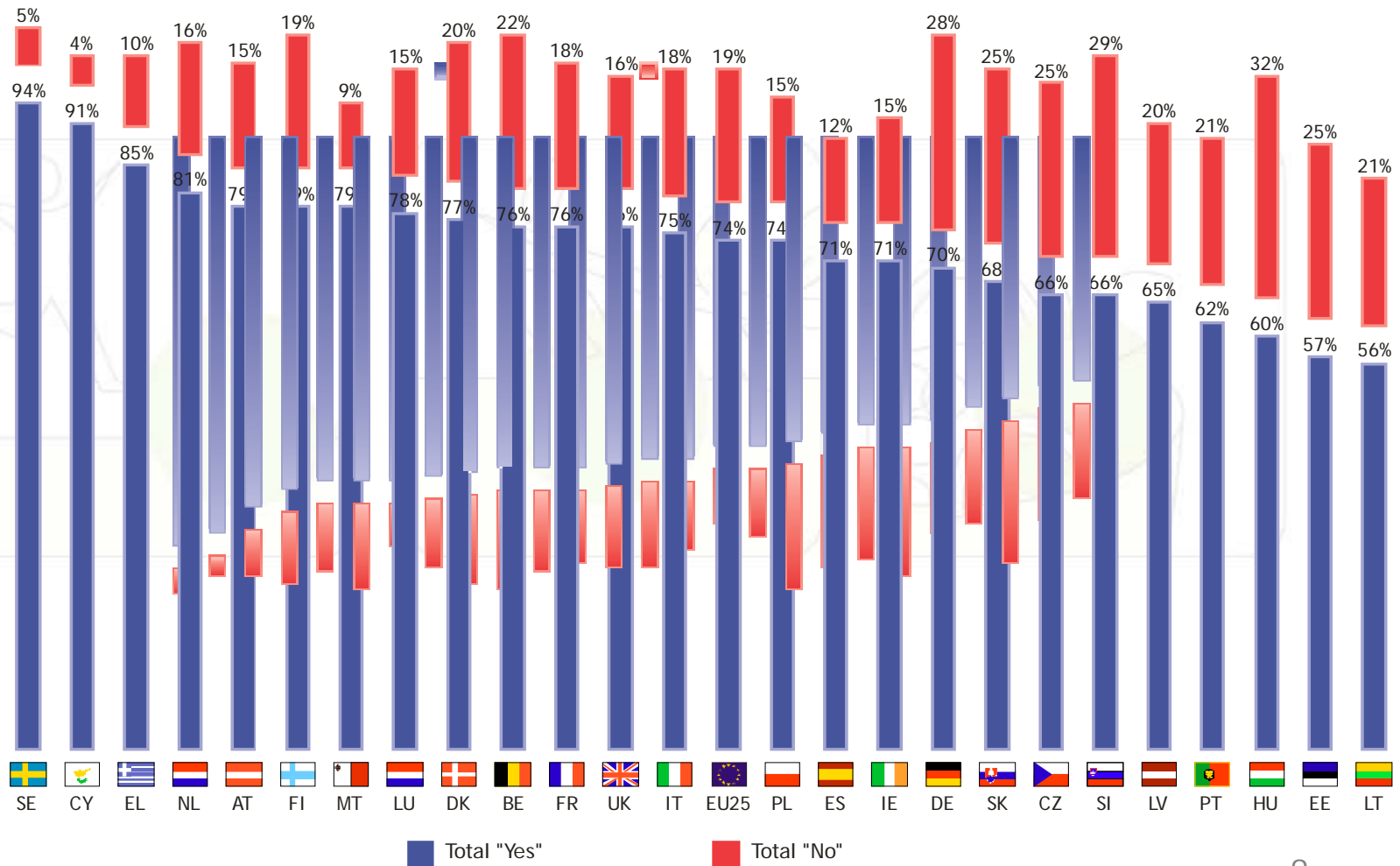
- 25% can accept a 5% price increase
- 21% can accept a 10% price increase
- 11% can accept a 25% price increase or more

Assuming that a person consume an average of 220 eggs per year...

- Extra costs of buying barn eggs instead of battery eggs: 5.5 €cents per week
- Extra costs of buying free range instead battery eggs: 11 €cents per week

Impact of purchasing behavior on animal welfare

Answers: Total "Yes"



Consumer CONCERNS: EUROBAROMETER survey - 2006

- Over 70% support the idea of financial rewards for producers applying high AW standards
- 89% think that import should be produced under the same animal welfare conditions as those originating in the EU



EUROBAROMETER survey - 2006

- AW is an issue which EU citizens rank highly, giving it 8 out of 10 on average in terms of importance
- 62% would change shopping habits in order to access more animal welfare friendly goods
- 51% think AW friendly goods are healthier than other food and 48% think they are of better quality



How can animal welfare be achieved?

- Legislation
- Non-legislative options
- Volunteer agreements
- Consumers' choice



Legislation

- The treaty forms the legal base for the EU
- Commission present proposals
- Council and European Parliament adopts the proposal
- Member States implements the legislation

The result today:

Animal welfare legislation in particular concerning

- Farm animals (98/58 EC) – general rules for the protection of animals of all species
 - Calves
 - Laying hens; Broilers and Pigs
- During transport
 - Export refunds
- At the time of slaughter or killing
- Breeding/Health requirements and Food safety



EU legislation on welfare for farmed animals

**Council Directive
98/58/EC
concerning the
protection of
animals kept for
farming purposes**



98/58

- General rules for any animal bred or kept for the production of food but also for
 - Wool, skin or fur
 - Other farming purposes
- Owners shall take “reasonable steps” to ensure the welfare of animals under their care
- To be implemented by the Member States

98/58

- Administrative rules on
 - Staff, inspections and record keeping
- Rules on buildings and equipment
 - Protection from adverse weather and predators
 - Functional mechanical systems
- Animal related rules
 - Feed, water and other substances
 - Mutilations

98/58

■ Breeding procedures

- Breeding which cause, or are likely to cause suffering or injury is not allowed
- However – certain procedures likely to cause minimal or momentary suffering may be allowed

Protection of calves



Protection of calves

- Directive 91/629/EEC laying down minimum standards for the protection of calves
- Calf=a bovine animal up to six months old

During slaughter

- Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing
- Applies from 1 January 2013
- Stricter national rules
 - Member States may maintain any national rules aimed at ensuring more extensive protection of animals at the time of killing in force at the time of entry into force of this Regulation.

During transport

- Regulation on animal welfare during transport
- Export refunds related to the welfare of cattle during transport



Other considerations

■ OIE (World organisation for animal health)

- Recommendations during slaughter
- Recommendations during transport
- Work started on possible recommendations on the welfare of dairy cattle

■ Council of Europe – European Conventions for the protection of animals

- kept for farming purposes
- during slaughter
- during transport

That was then but....



What's next
?????????



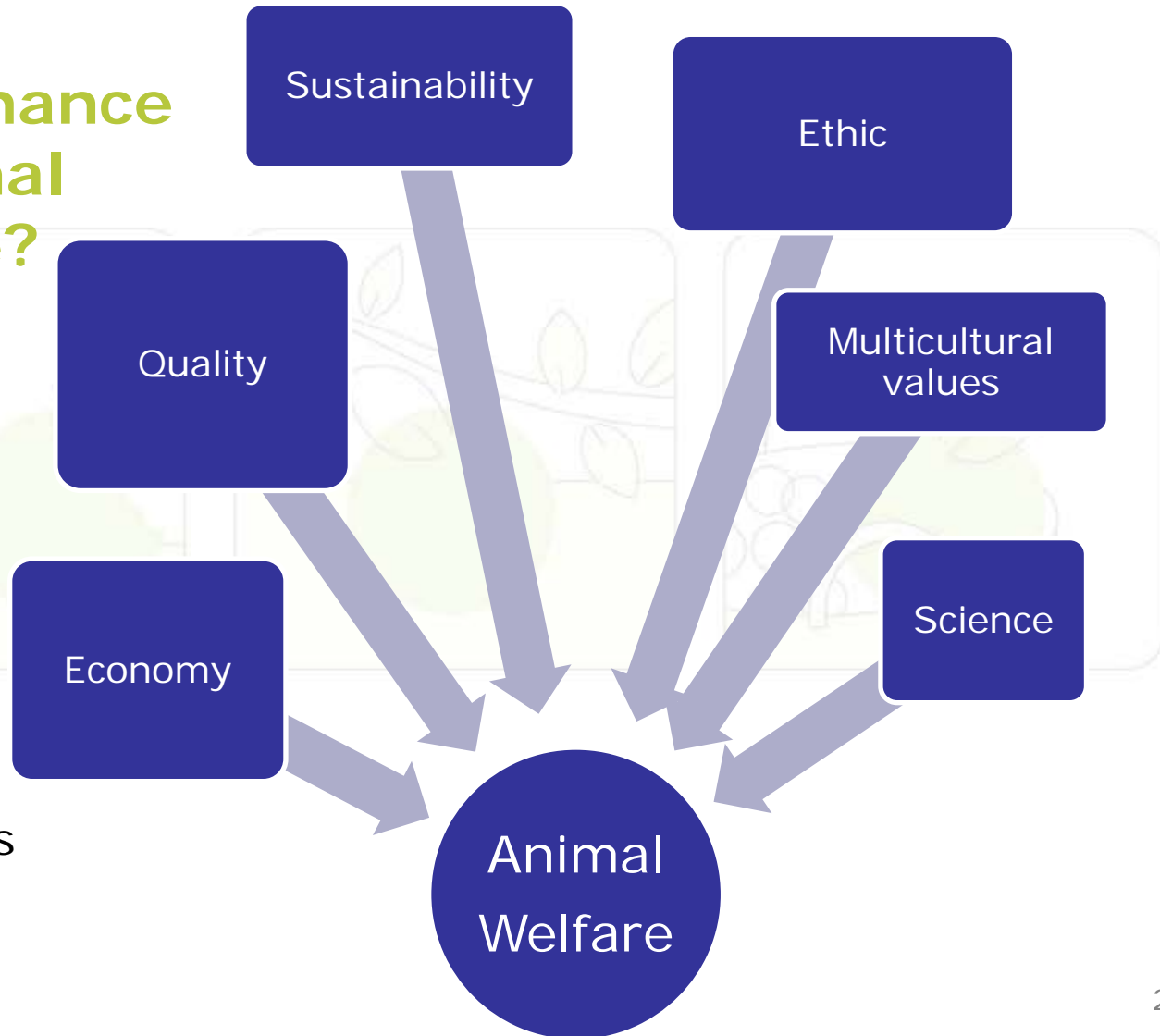
Something “new” is coming...

Future strategy on animal welfare 2011-2015

- Need to reinforce **existing tools**
 - International cooperation
 - Communication and education
 - Enforcement (e.g. common methodology to address animal welfare risks)
 - Research
- New approach
 - Relevant for EU citizens
 - Costs efficient and economically



New governance for animal welfare?



Economy
Quality
Science
Competition
+
Ethic
Sustainability
Multicultural values

Coming initiatives - EU

- Commission report on animal welfare during transport
 - September 2011
- New Animal Welfare Strategy
 - End 2011/Early 2012
- Possible framework law for animal welfare

But first -----

Questions????



**ANIMAL WELFARE IS A
VALUE FOR ALL SOCIETY
AND...**

...FOR THE ANIMALS !



Thanks for your attention.