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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB item for the meeting of the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council of 9 and 10 December 2024: Revision of the EU's animal welfare legislation – <i>Information from Sweden, supported by Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany and Slovenia</i>

Society's demand for food which is produced safely and with animal welfare in mind is high and expected to grow in the future. In parallel the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a global concern which must be taken very seriously and urgently addressed. A high standard of animal welfare can contribute to good animal health, increased productivity, and a reduced need for antibiotics. Against this backdrop, it is encouraging to see One Health and animal welfare being reflected in the task for the Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare.

New animal welfare legislation should be grounded in the latest scientific knowledge and technological advancements. At the same time, it must address existing gaps in implementation and compliance across the EU. Ensuring consistent application is essential, not only to improve animal welfare but also to create a level playing field for all Member States.

We welcome the proposals on the protection of animals during transport and on the welfare and traceability of dogs and cats. *The Strategic Dialogue on the Future of EU Agriculture* recommends a revision of the animal welfare legislation, and we hope the new European Commission will prioritise this task. Now being up and running, it should also advance the previously anticipated proposals in this area and at the same time consider various initiatives around animal welfare and thus fulfil the commitment made by the previous European Commission in response to the European Citizens' Initiative *End the Cage Age*.

A revision of the legislation would be an important step achieving shared goals, such as the green transition and the development of sustainable food systems. These systems must deliver high standards of animal welfare, food security and food safety, as well as addressing consumer expectations. At the same time, they should ensure a competitive environment for producers and the entire food chain.

We therefore strongly call for the European Commission to put forward the remaining proposals for an ambitious revision and amendments of the EU's animal welfare legislation as soon as possible and to include them already in the 2025 work program.
