OIE Standards as a Platform for Developing EU Legislation and Bilateral Agreement with Trading Partners – Kuala Lumpur 5-9 November 2012

Andrea Gavinelli
Bente Bergersen
DG Health and Consumers
Unit G3 Animal Welfare

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Animal Welfare is a main issue for the EU

The EU will:

- promote Animal Welfare in a global context
- incorporate animal welfare as a topic in discussions and negotiations with third countries

Sustainability and environment will be embedded within this animal welfare approach
What is achieved?

Animal welfare and animal health are linked inasmuch as a good animal welfare will ensure that animals:

a) are less stressed  
b) are not constantly trying to cope with an inadequate or suboptimal living environment  
c) are more robust and less susceptible to disease

1) By including animal welfare, bilateral agreements have the potential to improve the lives of both people and animals.

2) Better knowledge of animal welfare in third countries may also facilitate market access opportunities.
Sheep and goat meat is in the main imported from New Zealand but also from Australia, Chile, Uruguay and Argentina. The total value of these imports is 1,187 million Euros.
Beef is imported in main from South American countries. The total value of all imports is 1,600 million Euros.

Chile is by far the largest exporter of pork meat to EU. The meat representing a value of 23 million Euros.
Import of poultry meat from Brazil, Thailand, Chile, Argentina, China and Israel to a total value of 1,655 million Euros.
EU-Chile SPS Agreement and Animal Welfare: a legislative success story

Establishment of an AW Unit in SAG

Appointment of the OIE Collaborating Centre on AW

Development of 4 implementing AW Regulations (Animal Protection Law N° 20.380)

Scientific networking and expertise on AW

Improved livestock conditions

Favourable conditions to promote

AW in the EU-Chile SPS Agreement
OIE standards – bilateral agreements

1) The standards constitute a technical platform where central specifications are outlined
2) The standards provide a good framework for and help facilitate discussions

The EU has good experience using the standards when negotiating bilateral agreements with third countries.
OIE Standards – Legislation

The EU has so far little experience in using the Standards in development of EU legislation.

- Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection did however build on some elements of the standards:
  
  e.g. Article 15(3)
  
  The following methods of restraint shall be prohibited:
  
  - a) suspending or hoisting conscious animals;
  - b) mechanical clamping or tying of the legs or feet of animals;
  - c) the use of electric currents to immobilise the animal that do not stun or kill it under controlled circumstances, in particular, any electric current application that does not span the brain.

Corresponds to OIE chapter 7.5 Article 7.5.2.(4)(b)
OIE Standards – Legislation (2)

The Commission is currently assessing the situation in European aquaculture with regard to the welfare of fish at time of killing.

It will be natural to use the Aquatic Animal Health Code Section 7 as a key source for the assessment of the current situation and for the development of possible legislative or non-legislative measures.
In conclusion

The EU believes that the OIE Standards constitute a very useful tool which facilitates both negotiations with trade partners and the development of Community or national legislation.
Thank you for your attention