



The role of EFSA in Animal Welfare

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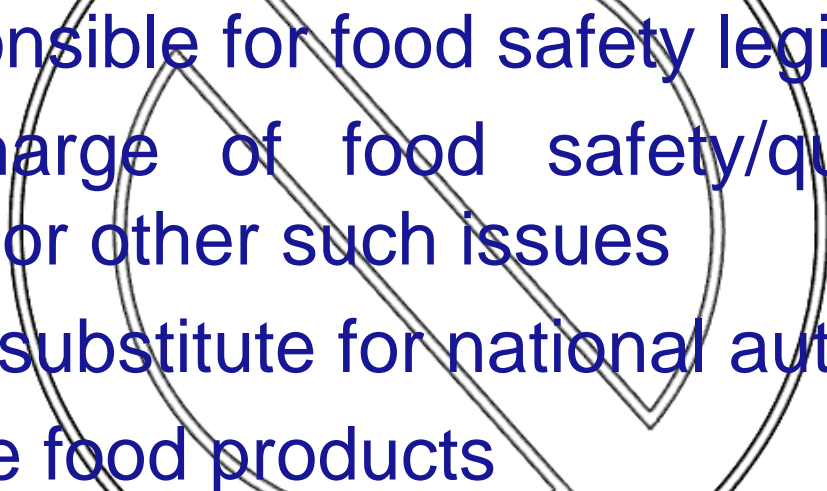
What is EFSA?

- The European Food Safety Authority is the keystone of EU **risk assessment** regarding food and feed safety
- It provides **scientific advice** and scientific and technical support for the Community's legislation and policies in all fields which have a direct or indirect impact on food and feed safety
- In close **cooperation** with national authorities and in open **consultation** with its stakeholders, EFSA provides **independent** scientific advice and clear **communication** on existing and emerging risks

What EFSA does

- Provide **scientific advice**, opinions, information, and technical support for Community legislation and policies
- **Collect and analyse data** to allow characterisation and monitoring of risks
- Promote and coordinate development of uniform risk **assessment methodologies**
- **Communicate** risks related to all aspects of EFSA's mandate

What EFSA cannot do

- 
- Be responsible for food safety legislation
 - Take charge of food safety/quality controls, labelling or other such issues
 - Act as a substitute for national authorities
 - Authorise food products

How EFSA works?



EFSA
receives question

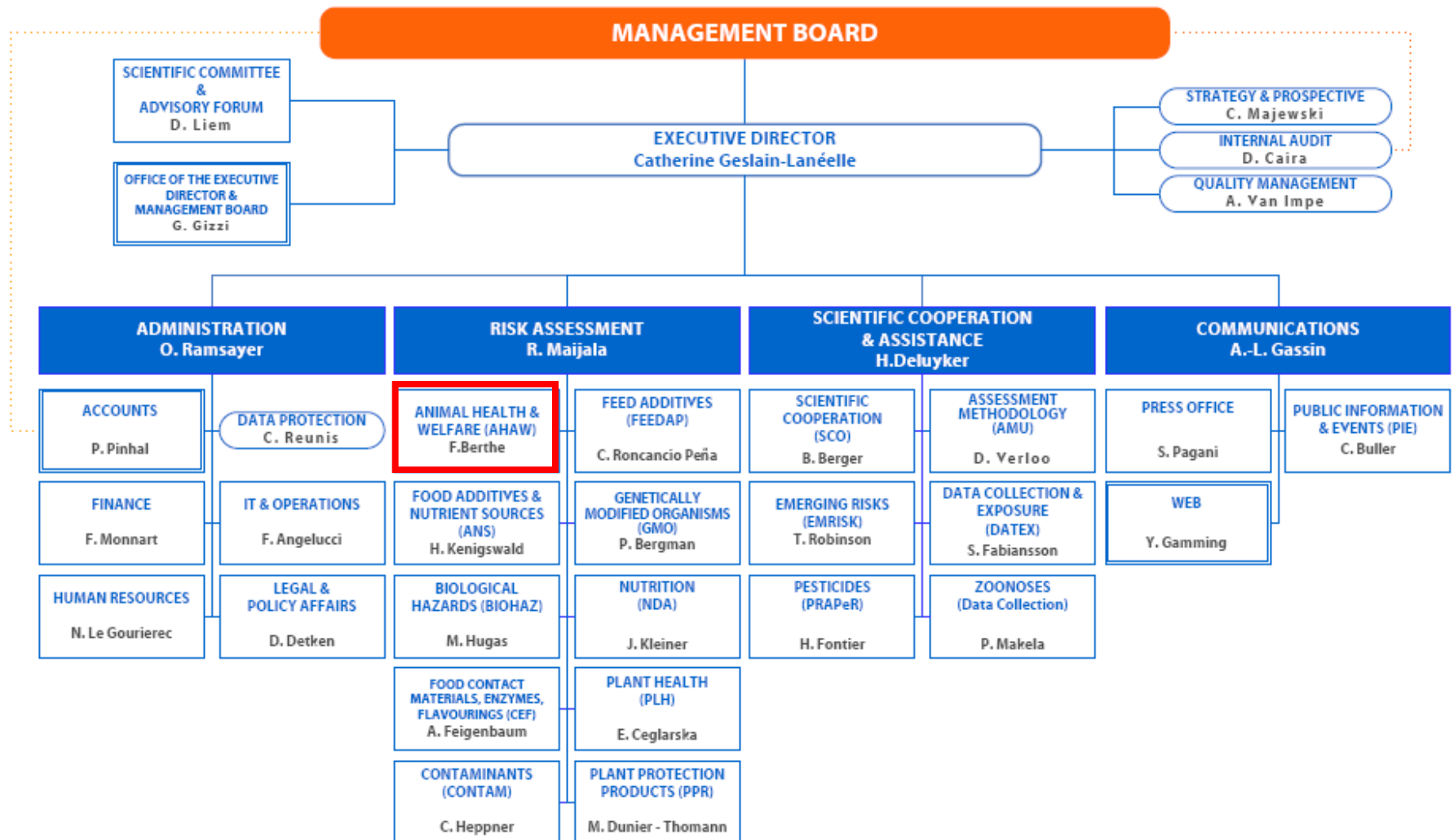
EFSA's scientists evaluate, assess, advise



Adoption and
communication



EFSA's organisational structure



Why an AHAW Panel

Animal health is a **public good** that benefits all segments of the society. Animal welfare is another dimension of this public good

The **Animal Health and Welfare Panel** deals with questions on all aspects of animal health and animal welfare, primarily relating to food producing animals, at the **human-animal** ecosystems interfaces

Ethical, socio-economic, cultural and religious aspects are outside of the **Panel's remit**

The AHAW Panel in EFSA

The **core activity** of the AHAW Panel is to assess animal production systems and practices, and the conditions pertaining to animal health and welfare

It has a **unique capacity and expertise** to also address non-food related health and welfare questions

It benefits greatly from access to a **network** of world class experts and **cooperation** with other agencies operating in the field of AHAW

Animal Welfare has an overall impact on animal condition, including possible incidence on animal health and food safety

The evaluation of interactions between animal welfare, animal health, and food safety comes to support the development of **control and monitoring** programs at farm level through specific indicators

Since 2004, the Animal Health and Welfare Panel has issued **32 Scientific Opinions** advising risk managers on how to reduce unnecessary pain, distress and suffering for animals and improve animal welfare where possible

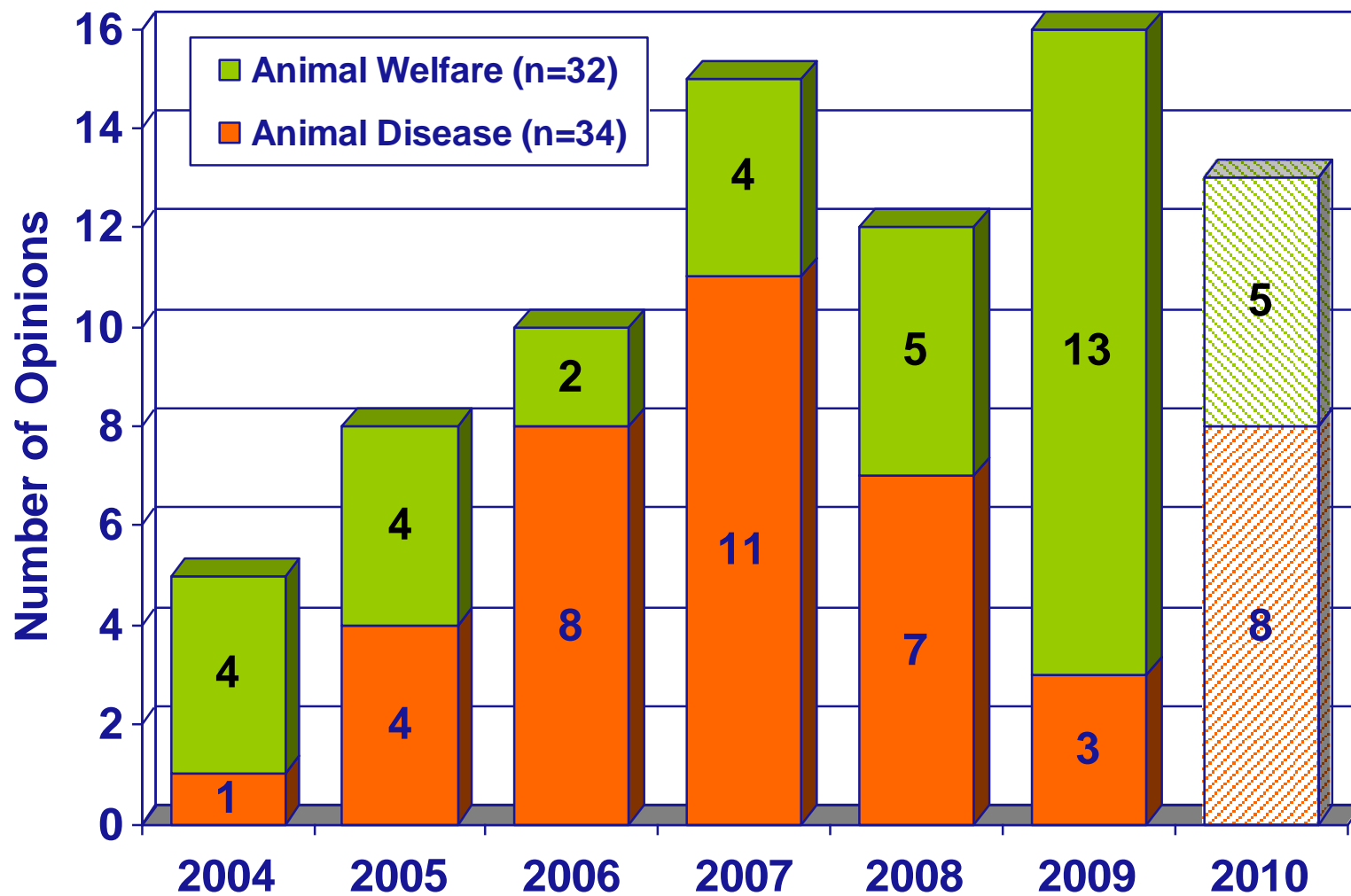
In addition, the AHAW Panel is at the forefront in developing risk **assessment methodologies** for animal welfare

The AHAW Panel



- Scientific and administrative support to the AHAW Panel and its ad hoc working groups
 - Plenary meetings of Panel
 - Ad hoc Working Group meetings
 - Collaboration with BIOHAZ, ZOOONOSES, EMRISK, AMU
- Cooperation with Member States
 - AHAW Scientific Network for risk assessment
 - Grants and procurements (Art. 36)
 - Public consultations and Technical Meeting
- Close collaboration with European Commission (Sanco D1, D5), EU Agencies (ECDC, EMA) and relevant international organisations (OIE, FAO)

The AHAW Panel



Methods of Stunning and Killing of Fish

Dairy Cows Welfare

Genetic selection of Broilers

Housing and management of broiler breeders

Practice of Harvesting Feathers on live geese

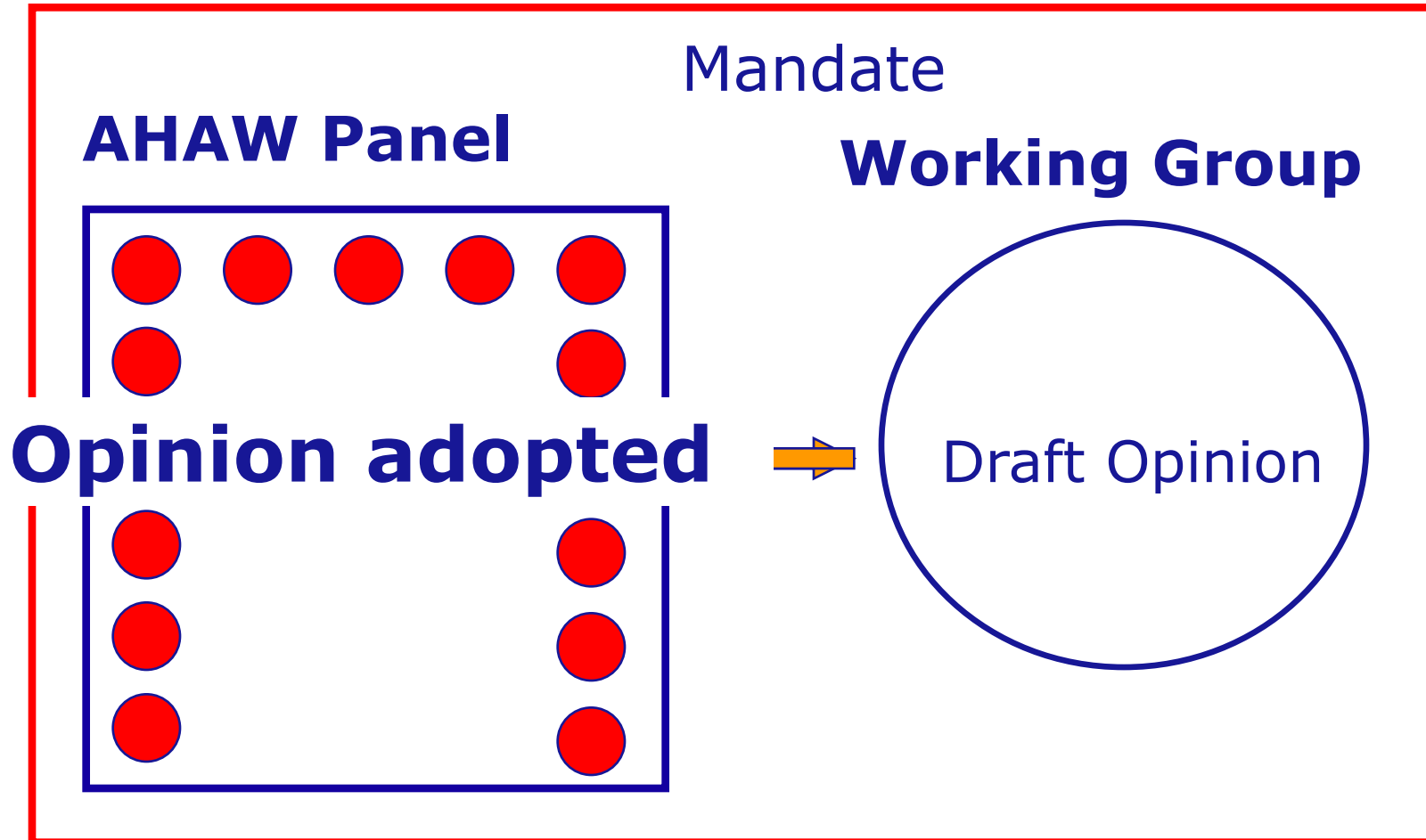
Animal Welfare on Transport

Development of Risk Assessment Guidelines for Animal Welfare (Art. 36 cooperation, Art. 23 methodology)

Guidance on animal health and welfare aspects on Genetically Modified Animal (GMO)

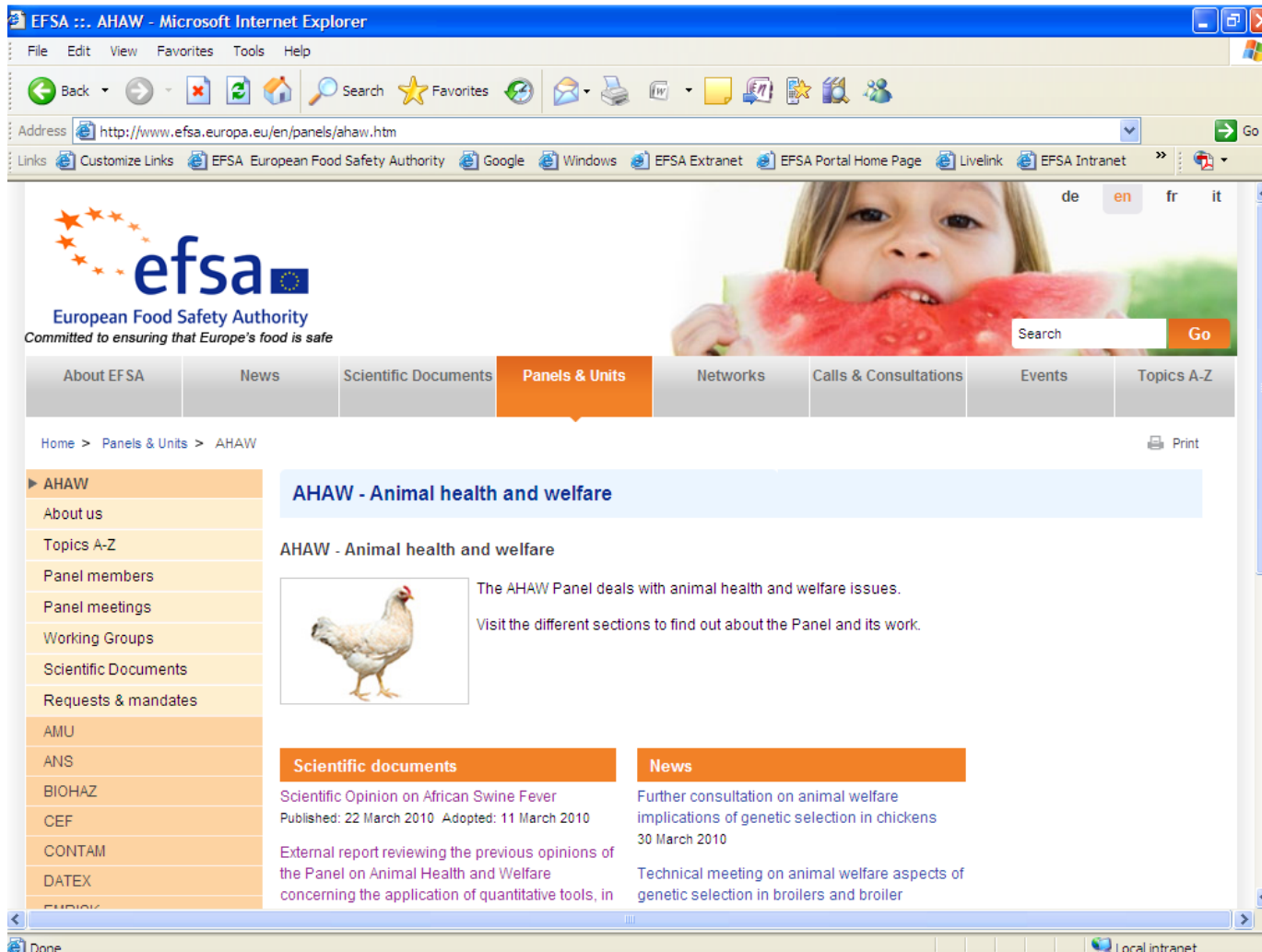
Development of Scientific Indicators for animal welfare on livestock species: Dairy Cows

From the “question” to the “answer”



What happens after adoption?

www.efsa.europa.eu



The screenshot shows the EFSA website as it appeared in 2010, viewed through Microsoft Internet Explorer. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/panels/ahaw.htm>. The website's header features the EFSA logo and the tagline "Committed to ensuring that Europe's food is safe". A navigation menu includes links to "About EFSA", "News", "Scientific Documents", "Panels & Units" (which is highlighted), "Networks", "Calls & Consultations", "Events", and "Topics A-Z". Below the navigation menu, a sidebar on the left lists various topics, including "AHAW", "About us", "Topics A-Z", "Panel members", "Panel meetings", "Working Groups", "Scientific Documents", "Requests & mandates", "AMU", "ANS", "BIOHAZ", "CEF", "CONTAM", "DATEX", and "EMERGENCY". The main content area is titled "AHAW - Animal health and welfare" and contains a sub-header "AHAW - Animal health and welfare". Below this, there is a photograph of a white chicken and a paragraph stating: "The AHAW Panel deals with animal health and welfare issues. Visit the different sections to find out about the Panel and its work." At the bottom of the main content area, there are two columns of news items. The left column, titled "Scientific documents", includes a link to a "Scientific Opinion on African Swine Fever" published on 22 March 2010 and adopted on 11 March 2010, and an "External report reviewing the previous opinions of the Panel on Animal Health and Welfare concerning the application of quantitative tools, in". The right column, titled "News", includes a link to a "Further consultation on animal welfare implications of genetic selection in chickens" dated 30 March 2010, and a link to a "Technical meeting on animal welfare aspects of genetic selection in broilers and broiler". The browser's status bar at the bottom shows "Done" and "Local intranet".

Impact on the UE legislation

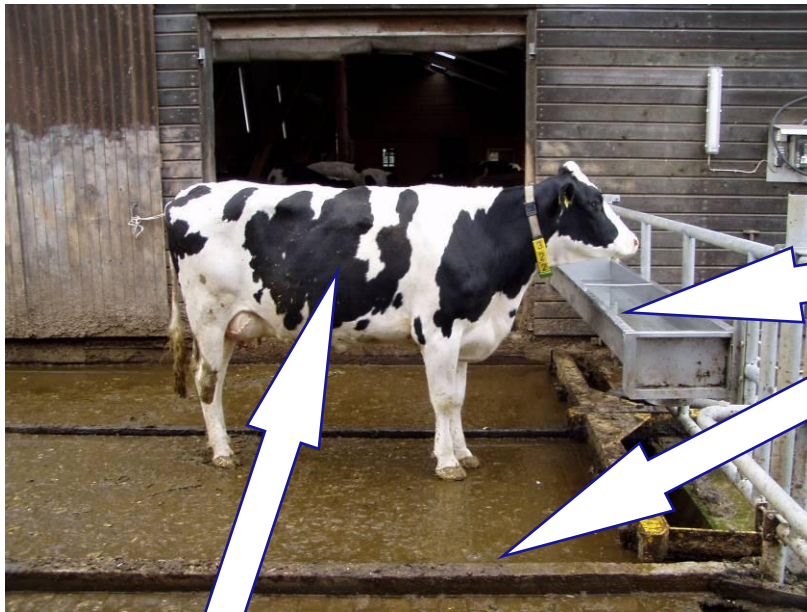
AHAW Scientific Opinion	Legislation
Avian Influenza: AHW aspects (2005), Migratory birds (2006), AI Vaccines (2007), Vaccination of zoo birds (2007), Risk introduction in poultry holdings (2008)	<u>Directive 2005/94</u> : Community measures for AI; and <u>Decision 2006/7</u> : suspending the import of non-treated feathers
AHW risks of the import of captive birds from third countries (2006)	<u>Decision 2007/21</u> : Import of captive-bred birds (wild birds banned) from authorised countries; and <u>Regulation 318/2007</u> : conditions for imports of certain birds
Rabies (2006), echinococcosis (2007), Ticks (2007)	<u>Regulation 454/2008</u> amending Reg. 998/2003 (EC) on health requirements applicable to the non-commercial movements of pet animals.

Impact on the UE legislation

AHAW Opinion	Legislation	Follow-up
Transport Welfare (2004). Microclimate transport (2004)	<u>Regulation 1/2005</u> , protection of the animals during transport	“... the Commission shall present a Report to the EP ... taking into account scientific evidence”. Current mandate on AW during transport
Stunning/killing of main commercial species (2004); Stunning/killing of minor species (2006)	<u>Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009</u> on the protection of animals at the time of killing	Recommendations on farm fish are not included. 7 SOs on stunning and killing of farmed fish were adopted in 2009
Welfare aspects of genetic selection of broilers and housing & management of broiler breeders (2 SOs + 3 tech reports in 2010)	Council Directive 2007/43/EC Art. 6: the Commission will submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council; that report may be accompanied by appropriate legislative proposals, if necessary.	

- Continue efforts towards the development of a **comprehensive harmonised methodological framework** to evaluate risks and benefits in Animal Welfare
- Contribute to the Community Action Plan on the Protection and Welfare of Animals (2006-2010): "...development of precise and measurable animal welfare indicators..."; "...to increase the efficiency of the controls and standards applied".
 - Assess **objective measurable animal-based welfare indicators** in order to develop and improve a monitoring and control system of animal health (welfare and disease) at farm level.

Animal based indicators

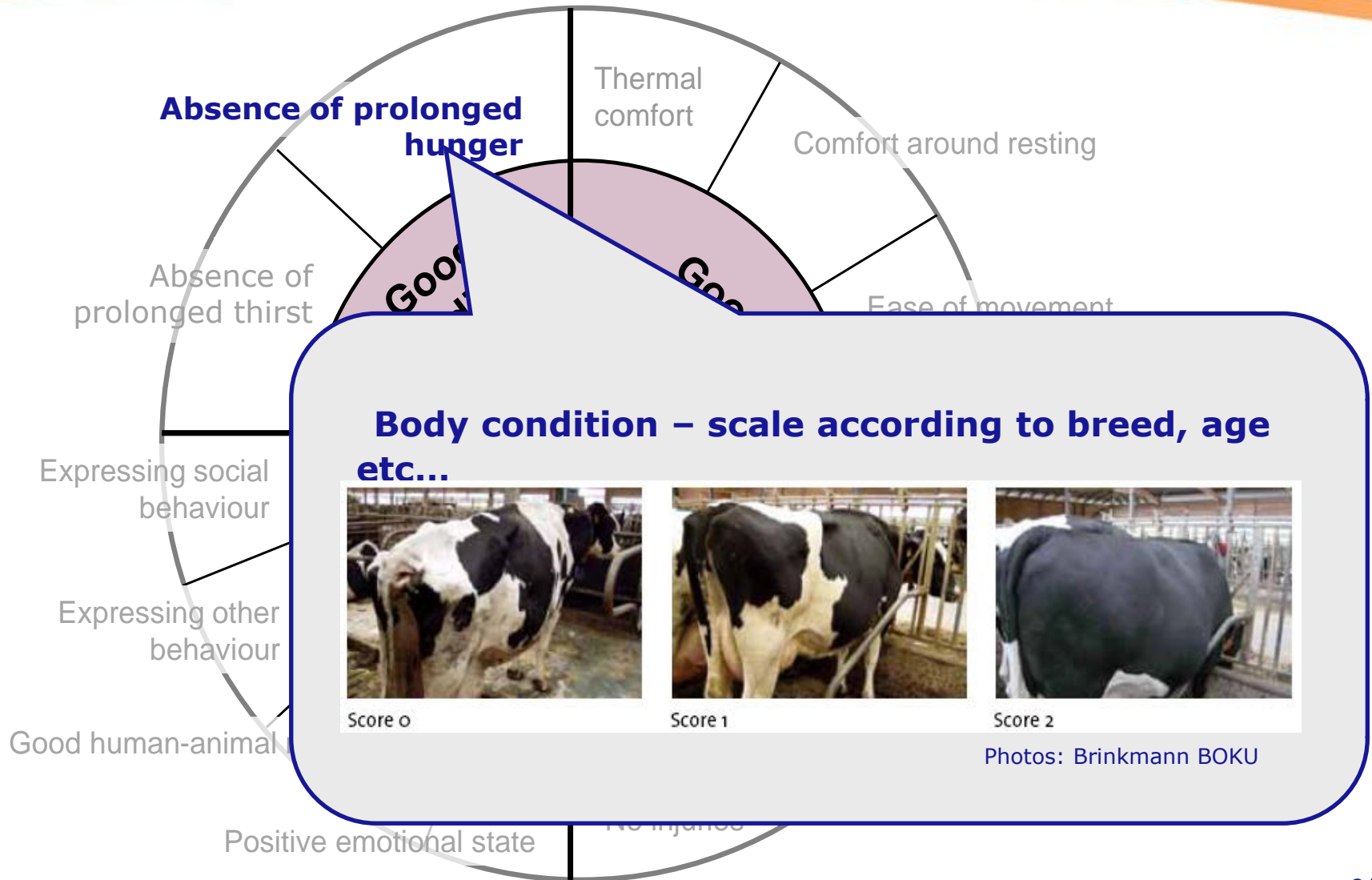


Courtesy L. Keeling

The input based approach
to welfare assessment

The outcome based approach
to welfare assessment

Animal based indicators: the shift



- How suggested assessment protocols cover the main hazards identified in EFSA scientific opinions
- How animal-based measures could be used to ensure the fulfilment of the EFSA recommendations
- Which relevant animal welfare issues cannot be assessed using animal-based measures and what kind of alternative solutions are available to improve the situation
- Main factors in the various husbandry systems which have been scientifically proven to have negative effects on the welfare of animals

- The **development**, the **validation**, and the practical **implementation** of welfare indicators will offer new opportunities to collect **epidemiological data** and information on the welfare status of food producing animals in Europe
- The collection of such epidemiological data will open avenues for **quantitative risk assessment** of animal welfare

Take home message

- The AHAW Panel of EFSA deals with complex, multifaceted questions of animal health and animal welfare, primarily related to – but not restricted to - food producing animals, at the human-animal ecosystems interfaces
- The Conclusions and Recommendations of the risk assessments on animal welfare conducted by the AHAW Panel provide the scientific ground for the identification of risk control options, to be reflected in EU legislation
- The development of a robust methodological framework for the assessment of risks and benefits in animal welfare is a long haul effort of the AHAW Panel

Thank you for your attention