

EFSA scientific support & context to revise the EU animal welfare acquis

*EFSA public event on the scientific opinions: welfare of
broilers and laying hens on farm
28 March 2023*

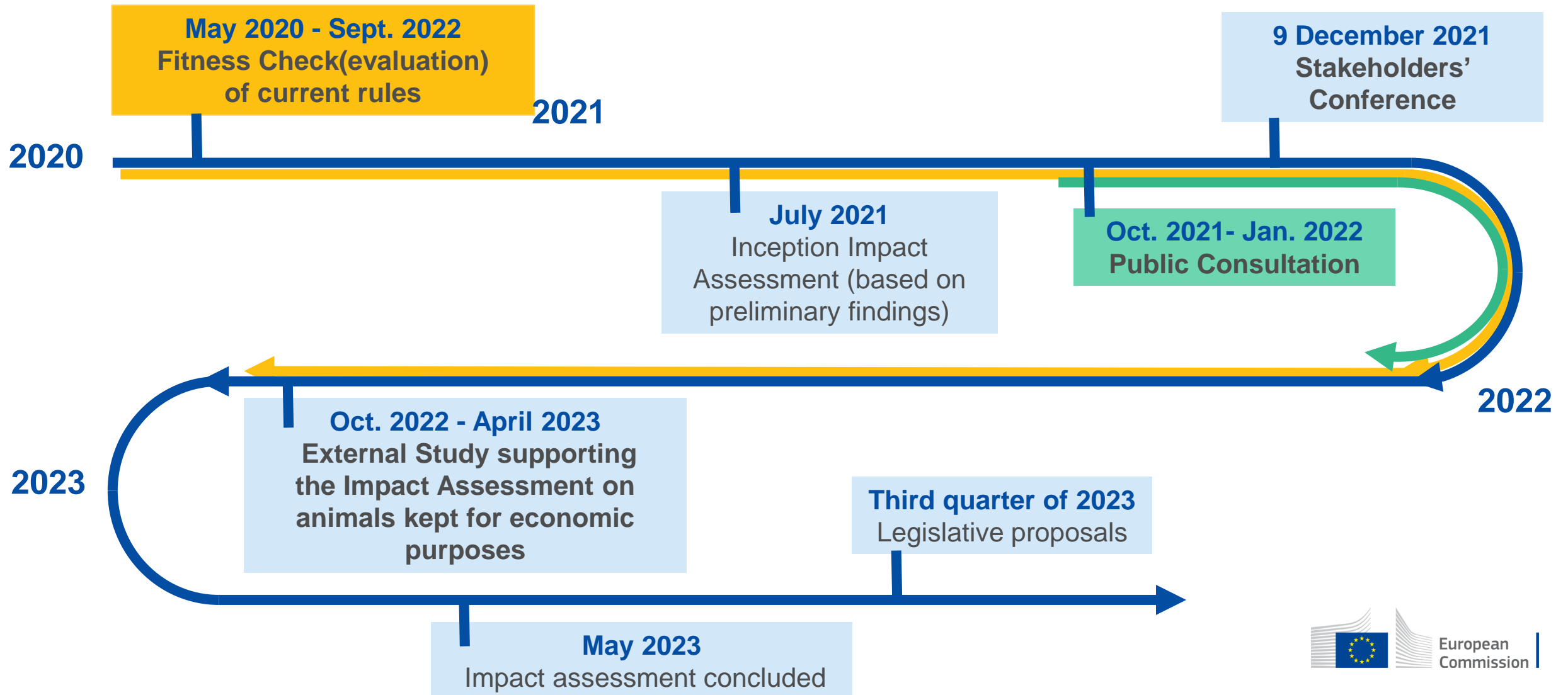
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Process towards the revision of the EU animal welfare legislation



Target of the review

Modernise the legislation



Scientific knowledge



Enforcement

Policy options on poultry on the farm under assessment

- Five Freedoms vs. Five Domains
- Duty of care: Standard operational procedures for larger farms or for all
- Prohibition/use of cages,
- Outdoor access, space allowances



More details on the concrete policy options are available in the Inception impact assessment:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12950-Animal-welfare-revision-of-EU-legislation_en

Policy options on poultry on the farm under assessment

- Mutilations (e.g. beak trimming), enrichment
- Better monitoring and enforcement by introducing new technologies – reducing the paperwork and promoting the digitalization of official controls



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EFSA scientific opinion on the welfare of laying hens on farm

Example: prohibit mutilations/ beak trimming

EFSA key conclusions/recommendations call for :

- Implement protocols to define welfare trait information
- Implementing all preventive measures against injurious pecking
- Provide dry and friable litter, supplemented by other enrichments
- Implement harmonised assessment methods and scoring systems

The role of EFSA in support to the revision

- Thanks to EFSA **modernisation** of the current acquis:
 - Update on welfare impacts of farming systems (e.g. cages)
 - Update on best farming conditions (e.g. space allowance, enrichment)
 - Update on monitoring tools and their use (e.g. indicators and their assessment)

Assessment of impacts in the wider context

- **Economics:** which impacts on costs for farmers
 - investments (e.g. enrichment: veranda)
 - continuous (e.g. enrichment: litter)
- **Environmental:** which impacts on environment and climate
 - land use (reduced density => additional houses)
 - reduced density => increased activity => increased energy needs + feed intake = higher CO2 footprint
- **Health:** which impacts on animal and/or public health
 - increased risk of infection (e.g. outdoor access/ AI)
 - enrichment, soil => increased risk for e.g. salmonellosis and campylobacter

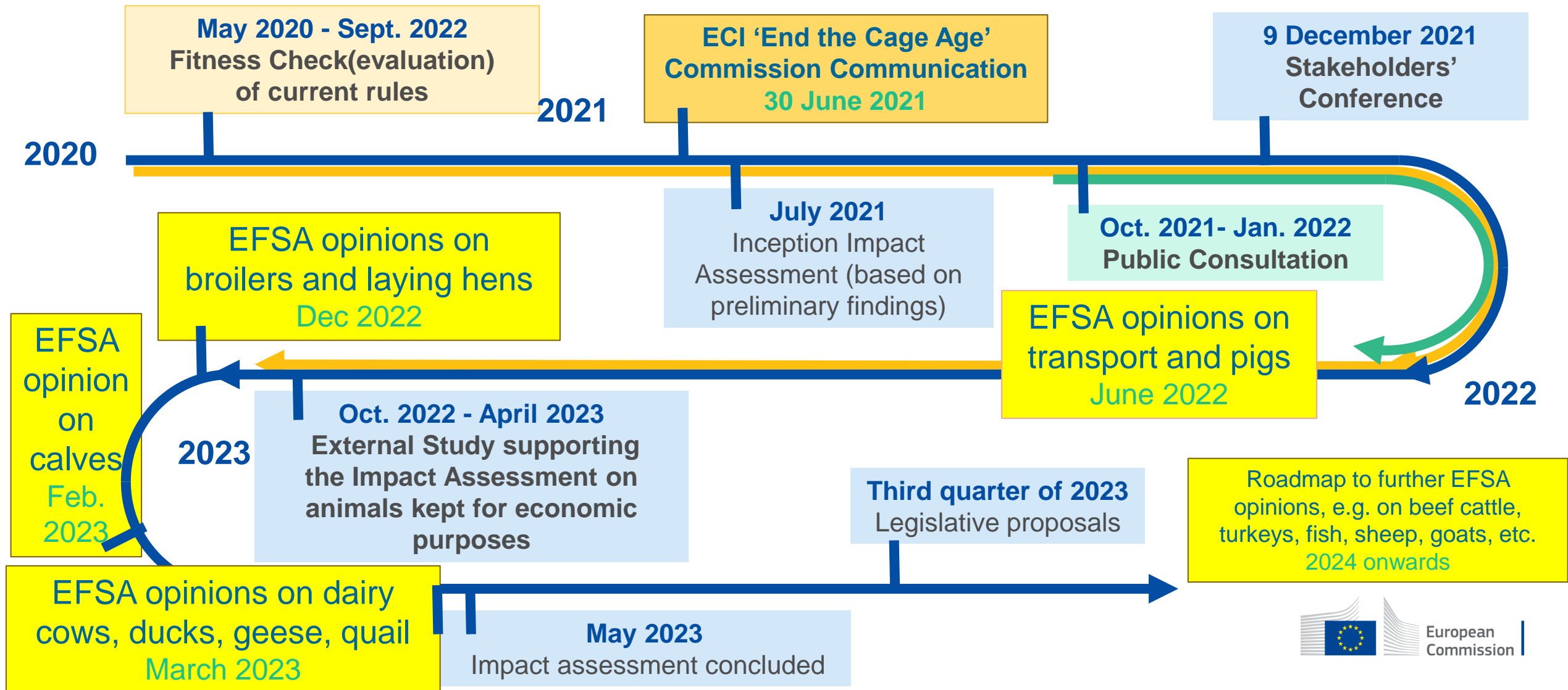
Working arrangements with EFSA

- **Working arrangements** between the Commission and EFSA allowing to maintain a continuous update of the legislation



- > **roadmap** for further mandates for species specific scientific opinions, such as for beef cattle, turkeys, fish, sheep, goats, etc.
- > planning for the next ca. ten years

The role of EFSA in support to the revision



Thank you for your attention!

