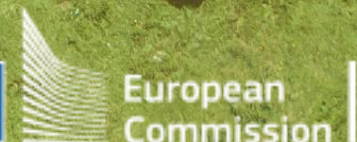


# EFSA scientific support & context to revise the EU animal welfare acquis

*EFSA public event on the scientific opinions: welfare of  
dairy cows, ducks, geese and quail on farm  
23 May 2023*

Andrea GAVINELLI,  
Head of Unit Animal Welfare  
European Commission (DG SANTE)





# Table of content

- Update on the revision of the EU legislation on the keeping of animals on farm
- The role of EFSA in support to the revision
- EFSA scientific opinions on calves, dairy cows, ducks, geese and quail
- Ensuring to maintain a continuous update of the legislation

# Target of the review

**Modernise the legislation**

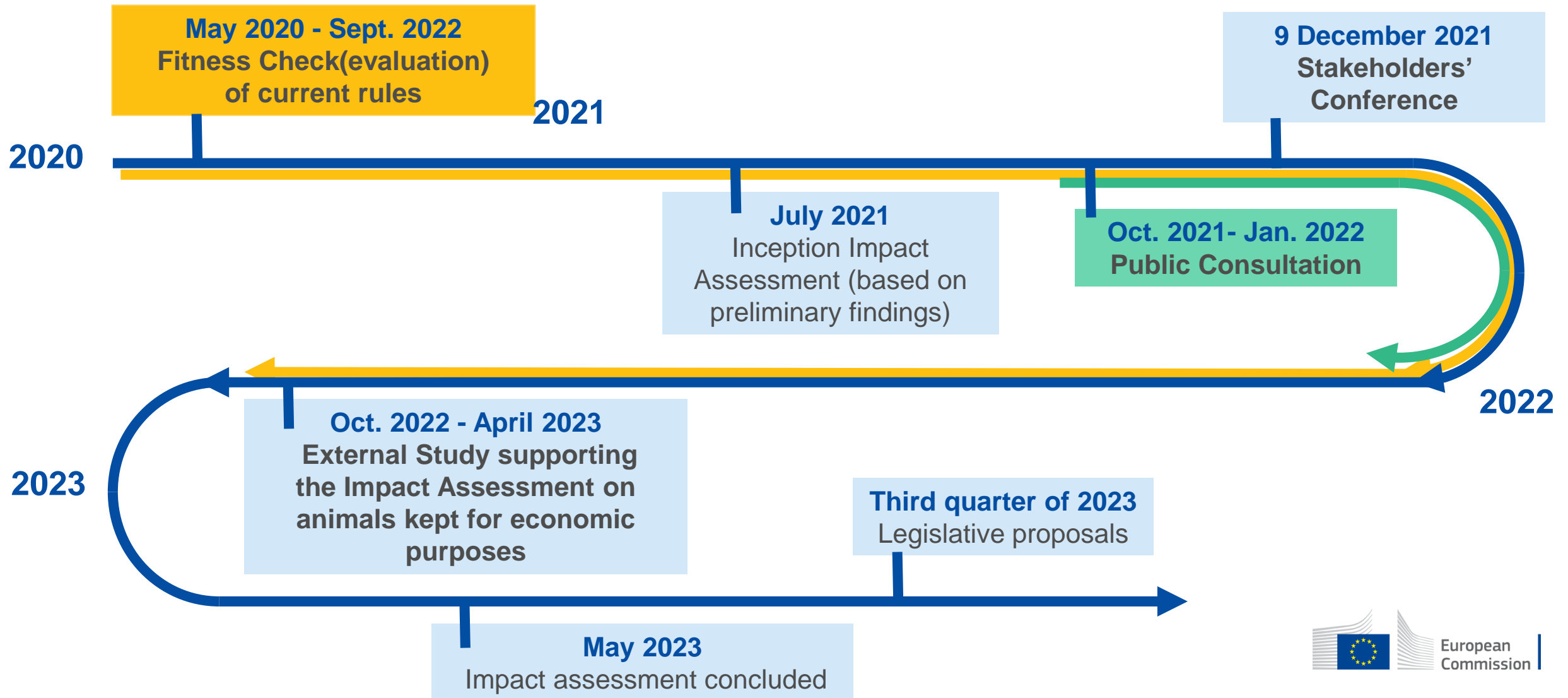


**Scientific knowledge**

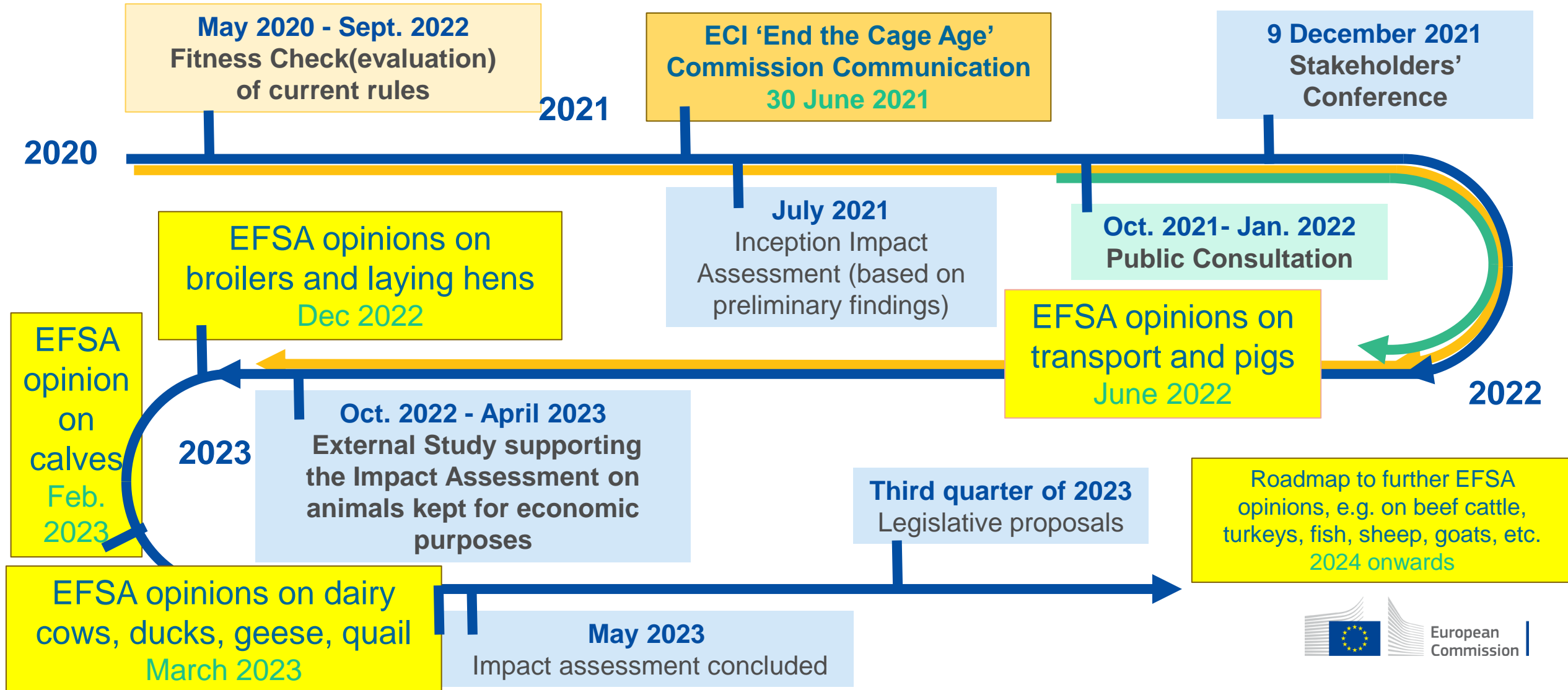


**Enforcement**

# Process towards the revision of the EU animal welfare legislation



# The role of EFSA in support to the revision



# 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)

# Policy options on animal welfare at farm level 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](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12950-Animal-welfare-revision-of-EU-legislation_en)



# EFSA scientific opinion on the welfare of ducks, geese and quail on farm

Example: prohibit the use of cages

EFSA key conclusions/recommendations state and call for:

- Avoid husbandry systems called cages (individual, couple or collective) and the systems currently used during the overfeeding phase for foie gras production
- Implement preventive measures in all husbandry systems, such as
  - Provide dry and friable litter, supplemented by other materials
  - Provide structural equipment suitable to the needs of the species (Muscovy ducks: perches, quail: cover, all: covered veranda)





# EFSA scientific opinions on the welfare of calves

EFSA key conclusions/recommendations state and call for:

- High intake of **roughage**
- Avoid **individual housing**
- Minimum **cow-calf contact**
- Minimum **space allowance**



# EFSA scientific opinions on the welfare of dairy cows

EFSA key conclusions/recommendations state and call for:

- Ensuring that each cow has **enough space** to move and lie down comfortably.
  - Minimum **space allowance**/one cubicle per cow
  - Deep **bedding**
  - Avoiding the use of **tie-stalls**.
- **Enrichment.**

# 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

# Thank you for your attention!

