

Farm rabbits questionnaire 2017

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Background

Commercial production of farmed rabbits in the EU

The Commission is seeking to obtain an overview on the situation of the welfare of commercially farmed rabbits in the European Union (EU).

To achieve this objective, the attached questionnaire covers different areas, which will help us to attain a better understanding of commercial rabbit farming in your country:

- general information on farmed rabbit production;
- existence of national legislation and/or guidance going beyond requirements of Directive 98/58 /EC;
- current animal welfare compliance levels at rabbit farms.

The information provided will contribute to the development of an overview report and will aid in the development of additional activities that are currently being considered, such as further targeted questionnaires to industry stakeholders associations, technical meetings and workshops with competent authorities and stakeholders, and a short number of fact-finding missions to EU MS, which are the main producers of farmed rabbit.

The scope covers the commercial production of farmed rabbits for meat and fur production, including the keeping of reproducing does and it includes all aspects which have potential repercussions for animal welfare, such as husbandry and catching practices, health issues and the use of anti-microbials and other veterinary drugs.

Questionnaire

*Please select your country

Slovak Republic

Please provide details of a contact point from your services for possible additional questions.

fric@svps.sk

1. General information on farmed rabbit production in your country

Note: Please provide data for 2016.

Specify year if data for 2016 not available.

Text of 1 to 4 characters will be accepted

a) Please Indicate number of commercial rabbit farms in your country by providing total number for each type of production specified below. (For this purpose "commercial rabbit farms" are those that slaughter rabbits at approved slaughterhouses)

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- Rabbit meat production

9

*

- Angora fur production

0

b) Please indicate number of farms keeping rabbits for the production of meat

- **"Backyard" farms** (for this purpose "backyard farms" are those producing rabbits for own consumption, and/or for slaughtering on farm for direct supply. Articles 10 and 11 of Regulation (EC) 1099/2009)

*number of farms

422

*What percentage of total farmed rabbit production they represent

97.91 %

• **Commercial farms keeping up to 200 does**

*number of farms

3

*What percentage of total farmed rabbit production they represent

0 %

• **Commercial farms keeping more than 200 does**

*number of farms

6

*What percentage of total farmed rabbit production they represent

1.39 %

c) Please specify number of rabbits slaughtered at approved rabbit slaughterhouses in your country, and annual production of rabbit meat produced through approved slaughterhouses

*number of slaughtered rabbits

0 million

*annual meat production through approved slaughterhouses

0 tonnes

Comment box for any clarification on data provided above:

There is no approved slaughterhouse for rabbits in the Slovak Republic.

2. National legislation / guidance / projects

In your country, have you got any of the following:

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- National legislation covering the welfare of farmed rabbits that goes beyond statutory requirements set out in Directive 98/58/EC

Yes

No

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- Guidance (produced by Competent Authority) covering the welfare of farmed rabbit

Yes

No

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- Industry guidance (produced by relevant rabbit sectorial association) covering the welfare of farmed rabbits

Yes

No

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- Quality scheme (i.e. similar to "label rouge", "freedom foods" for poultry) covering production of farmed rabbits and including general animal welfare standards that go beyond the requirements of Directive 98/58/EC

Yes

No

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- Have you developed any projects concerning farmed rabbit production systems that have improved animal welfare during production?

Yes

No

If you've answered YES to any of the above questions, please attach relevant guidance/ national legislation/ documents here.

***3. Are there any national proposals, currently being drafted, to enact legislation/guidance covering the welfare of farmed rabbits that go beyond statutory requirements set out on Directive 98/58/EC?**

- Yes
- No

If you've answered YES please attach relevant documents here.

4. Could you provide further information as to the main drivers or reasons for any specific national legislation, guidance (or, conversely, for not having some in place), and whether this has helped to improve animal welfare and overall compliance at farm level?

N/A

5. State main elements of current national legislation/ guidance on the welfare of farmed rabbits

Please answer this question if you responded affirmatively to questions 2 and/or 3

- Size of cages- length, width, height
- Rabbit group sizes within the cages- stocking densities
- Enriched environment within the cages
- Specific for does: g. floor mats, escape platforms, etc...
- Extensive indoor (e.g. "Park housing", Pen housing, group housing...)
- General housing conditions (e.g. temperature, ventilation, lightning, hygiene...)
- Competence of personnel – (e.g. Good husbandry procedures, animal welfare training...)
- Other

Please provide details for any of the items you've selected.

N/A

6. Competent Authority delivery of official controls at farmed rabbits production sites

Following reporting procedures in accordance with Commission Decision 2006/778/EC concerning minimum requirements for the collection of information during the inspections of production sites on which certain animals are kept for farming purposes

Please provide:

	Rabbit meat	Angora fur
Number of rabbit production farms inspected	2	0
Number of rabbit production farms where non-compliances related to rabbit welfare were noted	0	-
Category A non-compliance	-	-
Category B non-compliance	-	-
Category C non-compliance	-	-

- **Category A.** "Request to address the non-compliance(s) within a deadline of less than three months. No immediate action for administrative or criminal offences"
- **Category B.** "Request to address the non-compliance(s) within a deadline of more than three months. No immediate action for administrative or criminal penalties"
- **Category C.** "Immediate action for administrative or criminal penalties"
- Concerning official controls at rabbit production sites. Please provide main animal welfare elements covered within such controls, alternatively attach guidance/checklist

in accordance with Directive 98/58/EC

Please attach your document(s) here

- Have you recognised any private certification schemes for farmed rabbit production sites which can be taken into account as a factor when establishing the risk basis for the organization of official controls

Yes

No

If you've answered YES please provide more details.

N/A

7. Provide details of any parameters being monitored at a national level to assess the rabbit welfare status at the farm (i.e. on-farm mortality, sore-hocks, post-mortem findings at slaughterhouse level)

N/A

8. What are the main issues that your Competent Authority (ies) face in relation to welfare of rabbits, whether in terms of compliance of the operators, enforcement of the requirements, relation with industry or NGOs, etc...

meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic and NGOs on 27/09/2016 "End the Cage Age"

***9. Are there any rabbit associations representing a significant amount of producers at national level and recognised as valid interlocutors by the Competent Authority?**

- Yes
 No

If YES please provide their names and contact details (if available)

Slovenský zväz chovateľov, Krížna 44, 824 76 Bratislava, sekretariat@szch.sk

Združenie chovateľov brojlerových králikov, S. Chalúpku 3, 934 01 Levice or
Bernolákova 519/29, 922 03 Vrbové

***10. Are there, at national level, any Non Governmental Organizations, with an active interest in the area of commercially farmed rabbits, which could be considered as pro-active interlocutors?**

- Yes
 No

If YES please provide their names and contact details (if available)

Sloboda zvierat, Mlynské Nivy 37, 821 09 Bratislava

11. Have any good practices been identified in your country in commercially farmed rabbits, that whilst improving the animal welfare standards of rabbits have also met operators' economic imperative to remain a viable business?

N/A

12. Please provide any additional information that you believe to be of relevance in order to help us with the analysis and to get a more comprehensive picture of the farmed rabbit sector in your country.

N/A

Contact

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