



# **New EU Regulation on killing of animals: *the case of depopulation***

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*The views expressed here are purely those of the writer and may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of the European Commission.*

# Introduction

- Killing for disease control covered by Directive 93/119/EC but outdated
- Disease control = public money hence public opinion matters
- Good preparedness is good for animal health and welfare



## Reasons and context for changes

-  opinions (2004-2006)
-  guidelines (2005)
- Technological developments
- Better governance = increased transparency and accountability of public actions





# Reference

- Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing
- OJ L 303, 18.11.2009, p.1
- Entry into application on 1 Jan 2013



# A new definition



## ■ Depopulation

« *killing animals for public health, animal health, animal welfare or environmental reasons under the supervision of the competent authority* »

# Responsibility of operators



- Operators to take ownership of animal welfare
  - Standard Operating Procedures
  - Monitoring the effect of stunning on animals
  - Determining key parameters of stunning

## Responsibility of operators (2)

- Competence of staff
- Stunning and restraining equipments
  - Instruction of use and maintenance
  - Method for monitoring stunning efficiency on animals



# Stunning/killing methods

## A positive list of authorised methods

- More precise definition and requirements
- Some methods are allowed only for depopulation (like CO<sub>2</sub> for poultry)
- Possibility to update them through comitology



How to kill mosquitoes





# Scientific “support”

## ■ National scientific network for advice on:

- New stunning methods
- Manufacturers' instructions
- Guides to good practice
- Inspections and audits



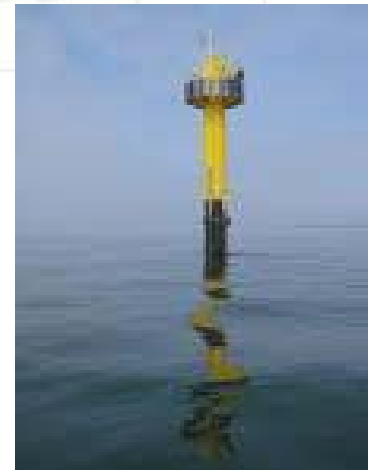
# Specific provisions for depopulation (1)

- Integration of AW in contingency plans
- Establish an Action Plan before operation
  - Stunning/killing equipments
  - Staff
  - Standard Operating procedures



# Specific provisions for depopulation (2)

- Competent authority monitors that operations are carried out in accordance with the plan
  - Need for an AW monitoring during operation
- Competent authority takes appropriate action to safeguard the welfare of animals in the best available conditions
  - Need to take action when something is going wrong



# Specific provisions for depopulation (3)

## ■ Derogation possible in exceptional circumstances

- Human health risks (e.g. avian flu)
- Significantly slowing down the process of eradication of disease
- Subject to public reporting (see later)



# Specific provisions for depopulation (4)

- Annual report on depopulation from the competent authority
- Report publicly available via the internet



# Specific provisions for depopulation (5)

## ■ Contents of depopulation report

- Reasons for depopulation
- Number and species of animals killed
- Stunning and killing methods used
- Description of difficulties encountered and solutions found to alleviate the suffering of animals
- Derogations granted





# Conclusion

- New approach on depopulation
  - Larger definition
  - Focus on preparedness (Action Plan)
  - Integration in contingency plans
  - Flexible on means but not on methodology
  - Obligation of monitoring and public reporting