

## Special Eurobarometer 442

### Summary

## Attitudes of Europeans towards Animal Welfare

Fieldwork  
November – December 2015  
Publication  
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Survey requested by the European Commission,  
Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety  
and co-ordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication

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(DG COMM "Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer" Unit)

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## INTRODUCTION

For over 40 years, the European Commission has been working in close collaboration with Member States to promote animal welfare, with the aim of improving the lives of farm animals.

Animal welfare legislation has evolved during this time, in accordance with citizens' expectations and market demands. In 1998, an important step was taken called the Council Directive 98/58/EC, which provided general rules for the protection of farm animals kept for the production of food, wool, skin or fur or other farming purposes. The rules were based upon the European Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for Farming Purposes and reflect the so-called 'Five Freedoms':

- Freedom from hunger and thirst;
- Freedom from discomfort;
- Freedom from pain, injury and disease;
- Freedom to express normal behaviour;
- Freedom from fear or distress.

The Lisbon Treaty adopted in 2009, amending the 'Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union', acknowledged the recognition that animals are sentient beings.

This paved the way for the development of the "Strategy for the Protection and Welfare of Animals" (2012 to 2015), designed to lay the foundations for improving welfare standards and ensure that these standards are applied in all European Union countries.

To build the Strategy, the Commission consulted widely with farmers, veterinarians, animal welfare organisations and other experts to help ensure that improving living conditions for animals would also make European food and agricultural products more competitive around the world. The guiding principle was "Everyone is responsible".

The Strategy set out to introduce a set of general principles that simplified rules and improve enforcement, improve animal keeping & veterinarian training, support EU countries in their compliance with EU rules, build international cooperation towards improving animal welfare and improve consumer information and their empowerment.

As part of this Strategy, the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety consulted European public opinion to establish current views on animal welfare.

The key objectives of this survey are:

- Understanding the relationship between Europeans and animal welfare within the EU: What do citizens understand animal welfare to mean? What importance do they attach to animal welfare? Should the welfare of farmed and companion animals be better protected than it is now?
- Assessing European awareness and perceived importance of key elements of the animal welfare strategy, with particular focus on 1) information and education, 2) international standards and 3) how animal welfare laws should be regulated.
- Determining European views on availability and recognition of products sourced from animal welfare-friendly production systems: Would citizens be prepared to pay more for these products? Do they look for animal welfare-friendly labels? Is there sufficient choice of animal welfare-friendly products in shops and supermarkets currently?

A few of the questions had previously been asked during the September – October 2006 Special Eurobarometer 270 "Attitudes of EU citizens towards Animal Welfare"<sup>1</sup> survey. For these questions, it is possible to analyse the current survey findings, alongside those from the previous survey.

<sup>1</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/PublicOpinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/470/p/4>

This survey was carried out by the TNS Opinion & Social network in the 28 Member States of the European Union between 28 November and 7 December 2015. A total of 27,672 EU citizens from different social and demographic categories were interviewed face-to-face at home and in their native language on behalf of the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety.

The methodology used is that of Eurobarometer surveys as carried out by the Directorate-General for Communication (“Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer” Unit). A technical note on the manner in which the interviews were conducted by the institutes within the TNS opinion & social network is appended as an annex to this summary. Also included are the interview methods and the confidence intervals.

Note: In this summary, countries are referred to by their official abbreviation. The abbreviations used in this summary correspond to:

Belgium	BE	Latvia	LV
Czech Republic	CZ	Luxembourg	LU
Bulgaria	BG	Hungary	HU
Denmark	DK	Malta	MT
Germany	DE	The Netherlands	NL
Estonia	EE	Austria	AT
Greece	EL	Poland	PL
Spain	ES	Portugal	PT
France	FR	Romania	RO
Croatia	HR	Slovenia	SI
Ireland	IE	Slovakia	SK
Italy	IT	Finland	FI
Republic of Cyprus*	CY	Sweden	SE
Lithuania	LT	United Kingdom	UK

\* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 28 European Union Member States. However, the “acquis communautaire” has been suspended in the part of the country which is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only the interviews carried out in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the “CY” category and in the EU28 average.

*We wish to thank the people throughout the European Union  
who have given their time to take part in this survey.  
Without their active participation, this study would not have been possible.*

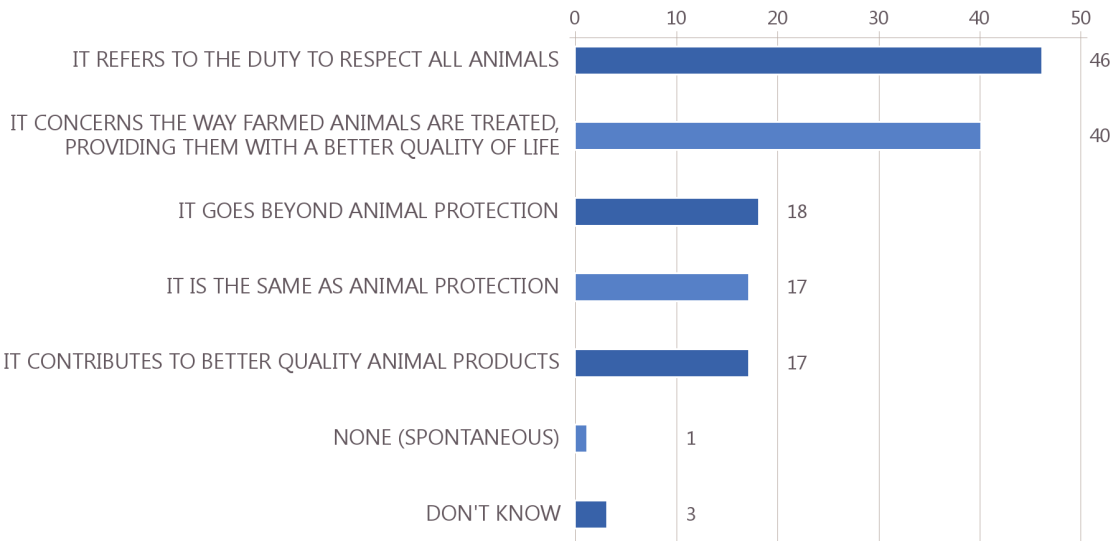
I. ANIMAL WELFARE: UNDERSTANDING AND PERCEIVED IMPORTANCE

1 General understanding of animal welfare

Close to half of Europeans (46%) understand animal welfare to ‘refer to the duty to respect all animals’, whilst slightly less (40%) mention animal welfare ‘concerns the way farmed animals are treated, providing them with a better quality of life’.

Interestingly, the proportion of citizens who understand animal welfare as ‘going beyond animal protection’ (18%) is very close to those who actually mention that it is ‘the same as animal protection’ (17%). Moreover, a similar proportion of respondents answer that animal welfare ‘contributes to better quality animal products’ (17%).

QB1 Which of the following statements best describe your understanding of animal welfare? (MAX. 2 ANSWERS)  
(% - EU)



Base: all respondents (N= 27,672)

When looking at country level results, the statement ‘**animal welfare refers to the duty to respect all animals**’ is the leading answer in 17 Member States, with considerable support from respondents in the Netherlands (70%), Luxembourg (62%) and Malta (60%). It was mentioned by lower proportions of respondents in Slovakia (19%), Hungary (23%) and Romania (24%).

‘Animal welfare **concerns the way farmed animals are treated, providing them with a better quality of life**’ is the top response in 11 Member States. More than three out of five respondents in Sweden (61%) and Denmark (61%) consider this statement to best describe animal welfare, and more than half of the respondents in Portugal (54%) share the same view. Countries with the lowest proportion of respondents to this statement are Spain (24%) and Latvia (30%).

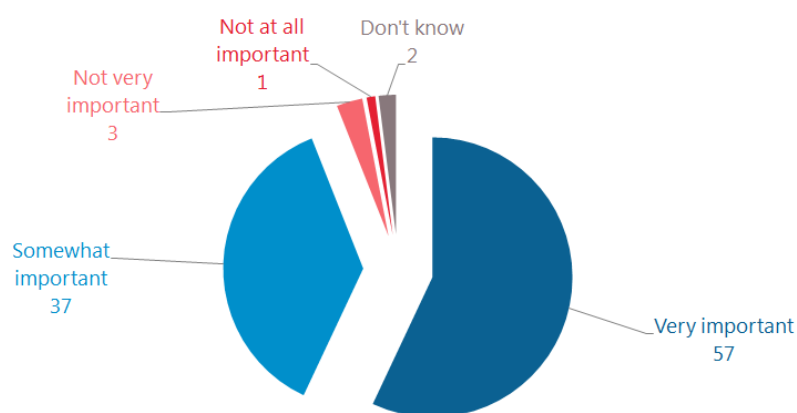
## 2 Protecting the welfare of farmed animals

### a. The importance of protecting the welfare of farmed animals

An absolute<sup>2</sup> majority of Europeans (94%) are of the view it is important to protect the welfare of farmed animals. More than half of respondents (57%) consider it to be “very important” and 37% to be “somewhat important” to protect the welfare of farmed animals.

Only a very small proportion (4%) of respondents do not consider the welfare of farmed animals to be important.

**QB2** In your opinion, how important is it to protect the welfare of farmed animals?  
(% - EU)



Base: all respondents (N= 27,672)

Looking at country results, it appears that more than four out of five respondents in each of the Member States consider the welfare of farmed animals to be “important” but with varying degrees.

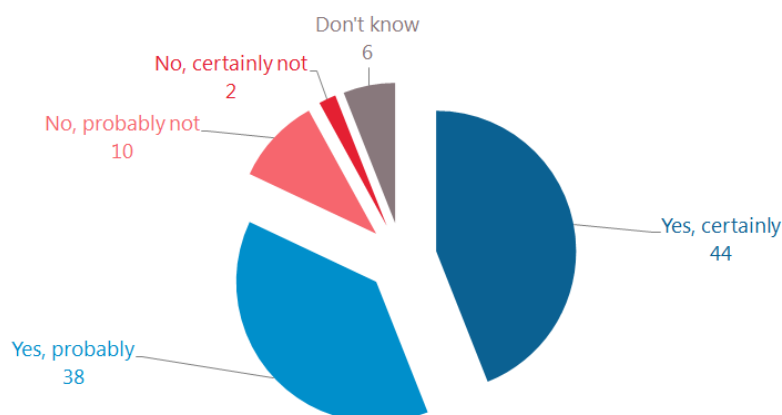
Almost every respondent (99%) in Sweden, Finland and Portugal consider animal welfare to be ‘important’, in comparison to respondents (86%) in Croatia, Hungary and Poland, the countries with the lowest proportions of respondents.

<sup>2</sup> throughout the report, “absolute majority” refers to results mentioned by more than 50% of respondents; conversely, the expression “relative majority” refers to the highest result, when it is mentioned by less than 50% of respondents.

## b. The relevance of better protecting the welfare of farmed animals

More than four in five respondents (82%) believe that the welfare of farmed animals should be better protected than it is now. More than two in five Europeans (44%) hold a stronger view, responding with “yes, certainly”, while more than a third (38%) of respondents believe that the welfare of animals should “probably” be better protected than it is now.

**QB3** Do you believe that in general the welfare of farmed animals in (OUR COUNTRY) should be better protected than it is now?  
(% - EU)



Base: all respondents (N= 27,672)

This question was also asked during the Special Eurobarometer survey SP270 in 2006, using a different wording at that time<sup>3</sup>. The evolution of results show that respondents are more likely to believe that the welfare of farmed animals should be better protected in their country (+5 percentage points on Total 'Yes').

In all Member States, an absolute majority of EU citizens believe the welfare of farmed animals should be better protected than it is now. More than nine out of ten respondents in Portugal (94%, +4 pp), Cyprus (93%, +2 pp) and Greece (91%, -4 pp) hold this view. The countries with the lowest proportions of respondents, but still with the absolute majority view, are Luxembourg (58%, -6 pp), the Netherlands (66%, -4 pp), Hungary (70%, -6pp) and Estonia (70%, -2 pp).

Since the survey in 2006, there are nine countries where there has been greater than 5 percentage point increases in the proportion of respondents who believe the welfare of farmed animals should be better protected than it is now. The highest increases can be seen in Finland (90%, +23 pp) and Ireland (80%, +22 pp) where the proportion of respondents answering “certainly”, increased notably for both countries (Finland +34 pp, Ireland +25 pp).

<sup>3</sup> QCS. Do you believe that in general the welfare-protection of farm animals in (OUR COUNTRY) needs to be improved? ANSWERS: Yes, certainly; Yes, probably; No probably not; No, certainly not; Don't know.

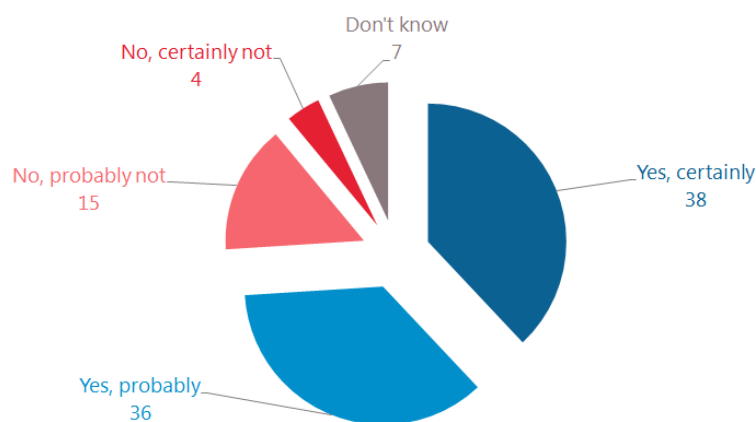
### 3 Protecting the welfare of companion animals

#### a. The relevance of better protecting the welfare of companion animals

Europeans hold a similar view regarding the welfare of *companion* animals, as they do towards *farmed* animals as per the previous section. The absolute majority (74%) of Europeans believe the welfare of companion animals should be better protected than it is now (38% - “yes, certainly”, 36% - “yes, probably”).

Slightly less than one fifth (19%) of respondents hold the opposing view, with 15% believing companion animals should “probably not” be better protected than it is now, and a further 4% with a stronger opposing view, responding with “no, certainly not”.

**QB12** Do you believe that the welfare of companion animals in (OUR COUNTRY) should be better protected than it is now?  
(% - EU)



Base: all respondents (N= 27,672)

When looking at results at a country level, in all Member States the absolute majority of respondents believe the welfare of companion animals should be better protected than it is now. In ten EU Member States, more than four out of five EU citizens share this view, with the highest proportions in Cyprus (94%), Portugal (93%) and Greece (89%).

Conversely, large proportions of respondents in the following countries don't believe the welfare of companion animals should be better protected than it is now: Sweden (41%), the Netherlands (40%), Denmark (37%) and Luxembourg (37%).

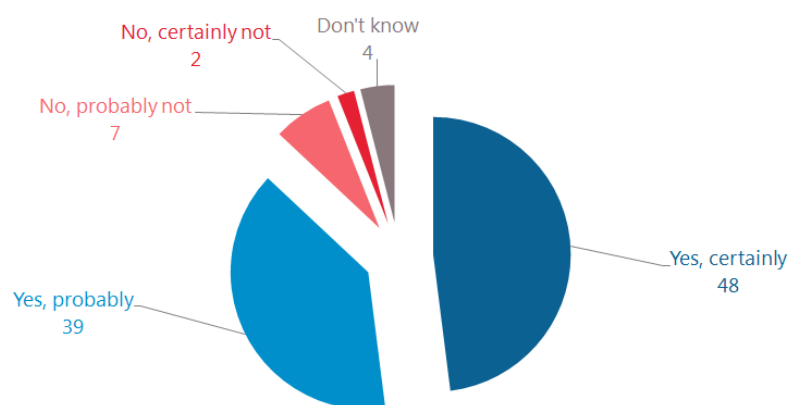
## II. EVALUATION OF SEVERAL KEY STRATEGIES TO PROTECT ANIMAL WELFARE

### 1 Information and education about animal welfare

#### a. Communication and education

The absolute majority of Europeans (87%) consider information campaigns on animal welfare to be a good way to influence the attitudes of the younger generation towards animals (48% “certainly” and 39% “probably”).

**QB11** Do you think that information campaigns on animal welfare could be a good way to have a positive influence on the attitudes of children and young people towards animals?  
(% - EU)



Base: all respondents (N= 27,672)

In all Member States, more than three quarters of all respondents “certainly” or “probably” agree that animal welfare information campaigns could be a good way to have a positive influence on the attitudes of children and young people towards animals.

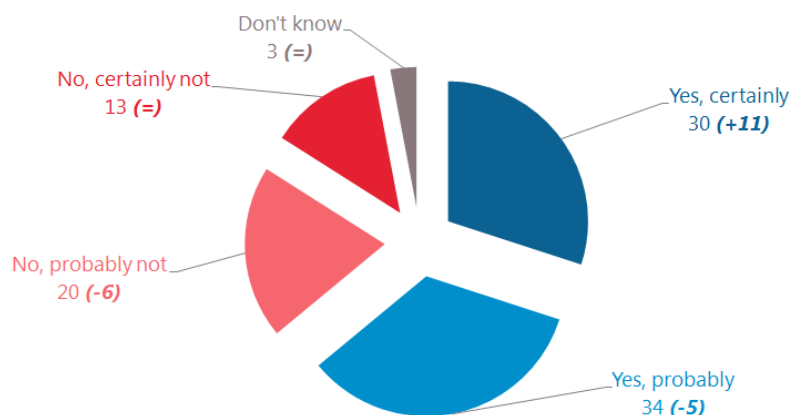
The highest proportion of respondents agreeing information campaigns are a good way to influence young people can be observed in Malta (97%), Cyprus (96%), Sweden (94%), Portugal (94%) and Luxembourg (94%).

## b. Information about treatment conditions

Almost two thirds of Europeans (64%) indicated they would like to have more information about the conditions under which farmed animals are treated in their country. A third of respondents (33%) are “certainly not” or “probably not” interested.

Since the last survey in 2006, there has been greater interest in receiving more information (+6 percentage points overall), with the proportion of respondents answering with “yes, certainly” (30%), increasing by 11 percentage points. The shift has come about through a decrease in the proportion of Europeans who “probably” (34%, -5 pp) would like more information, and a lower percentage of Europeans who “probably don’t” (20%, -6 pp) want more information about the conditions under which farmed animals are treated.

**QB8** Would you like to have more information about the conditions under which farmed animals are treated in (OUR COUNTRY)?  
(% - EU)



(December 2015 - September 2006)

Base: all respondents (N= 27,672)

When looking at results at a country level, the absolute majority of respondents in 24 Member States would like to receive more information about the conditions under which farmed animals are treated in their countries. More than four out of five respondents in Cyprus (83%, +7 pp since 2006 survey) and Greece (82%, -2 pp) are interested in more information, as well as 80% of respondents in Romania (+6 pp) and Italy (+3 pp).

Since the last survey in 2006, interest in receiving more information about the conditions under which farm animals are treated has increased by more than five percentage points in 20 countries.

The largest increases can be observed in Finland (64%, +22 pp), the Czech Republic (64%, +17 pp) and Lithuania (62%, +16 pp).

## 2 International animal welfare standards

### a. Building international standards

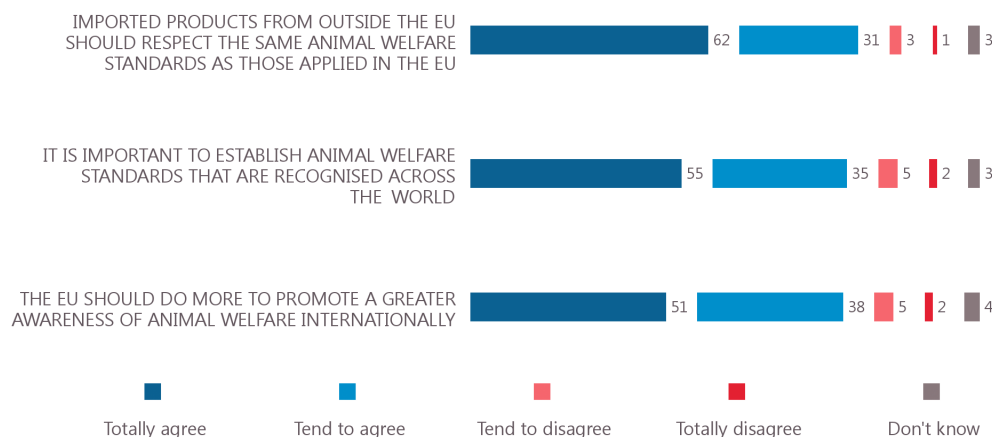
Overall, almost nine out of ten Europeans agree with all of the statements which follow, with only a small proportion in disagreement (7% or less of EU citizens across all statements).

Europeans are more likely to strongly agree **‘imported products from outside the EU should respect the same animal welfare standards as those applied in the EU’** (93%), with almost two thirds of respondents (62%) who “totally agree” with the statement, and a further 31% who “tend to agree”.

Nine out of ten respondents (90%) agree **‘it is important to establish animal welfare standards that are recognised across the world’**: 55% “totally agree” and 35% “tend to agree”.

A similar proportion of EU citizens (89%) agree the **‘EU should do more to promote a greater awareness of animal welfare internationally’**, with 51% who “totally agree” and a further 38% who “tend to agree” with this statement.

**QB13** The EU is working with other countries to build a common understanding on internationally recognised animal welfare standards. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? (% - EU)



Base: all respondents (N= 27,672)

In all Member States, more than four out of five respondents agree that imported products from outside of the EU should respect the same welfare standards as those applied in the EU.

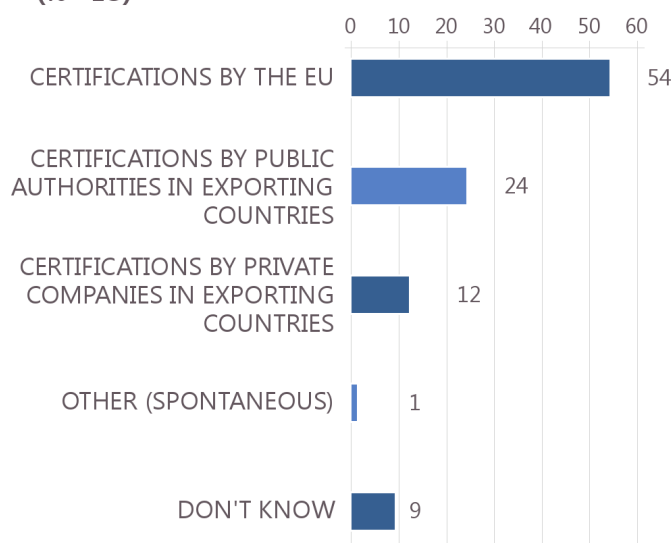
Across all Member States, the absolute majority of respondents agree it is important to establish animal welfare standards that are recognised across the world.

Again, across all Member States, the absolute majority view is that the EU should do more to promote a greater awareness of animal welfare internationally with more than seven out of ten respondents in agreement everywhere.

## b. Respecting EU standards

The absolute majority of EU citizens (54%) hold the view that the best method is via certifications provided by the EU. Just under a quarter (24%) of respondents believe certifications should be provided by public authorities in exporting countries and more than one in ten believe (12%) certifications provided by private companies in exporting countries is the best method.

**QB14** Currently, products derived from animals imported into the EU are not required to carry information about animal welfare. In your opinion, what would be the best method of guaranteeing that imported animal products respect EU standards?  
(% - EU)



Base: all respondents (N= 27,672)

A country level analysis shows that **certification by the EU** is the lead method mentioned across all Member States. In 16 countries, the absolute majority of respondents support this method. In the remaining 12 countries, the relative majority of EU citizens believe this to be the best method to guarantee imported products respect EU standards.

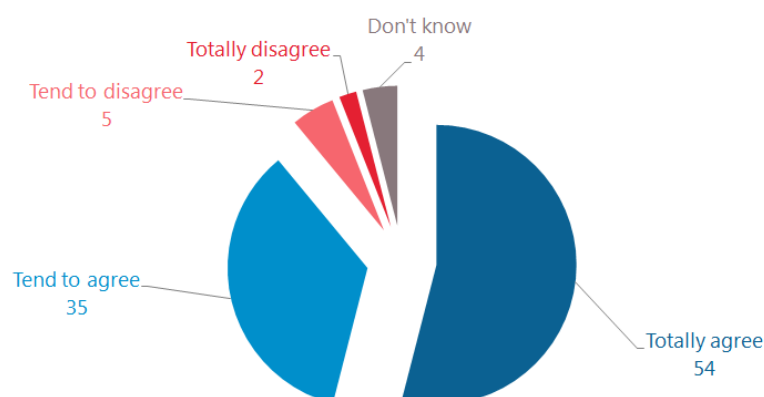
Respondents in Spain (70%), Luxembourg (69%) and Finland (67%) are more likely to consider this as the best method of guaranteeing imported animal products respect EU standards than respondents in Poland (35%), Hungary (37%) and Bulgaria (39%). For these latter countries, whilst this is still the majority view, there is a reasonable proportion of respondents also supporting **certifications by public authorities in exporting countries**: Poland (25%), Hungary (33%), Bulgaria (32%).

### 3 Regulation

#### a. Regulation regarding animals used for commercial use

Overall, the absolute majority of EU citizens agree (89%) with the statement which follows. More than half of respondents (54%) “totally agree” such a law should exist, and a further 35% “tend to agree”. Less than one in ten (7%) disagree with this view.

**QB5** There is currently no legal obligation in the EU to care for animals used for commercial purposes. To what extent do you agree or disagree that there should be an EU law obliging any person using animals for commercial purposes in the EU to care for them?  
(% - EU)



Base: all respondents (N= 27,672)

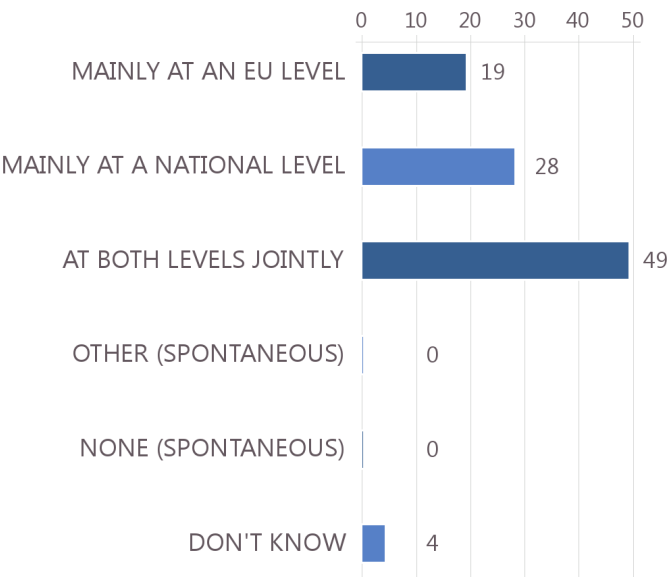
A country analysis shows high levels of agreement across all Member States, with more than three quarters of all respondents in each country in agreement with this statement.

In 18 Member States, the absolute majority of respondents “totally agree” there should be an EU law obliging any person using animals for commercial purposes to care for them, with the highest proportions in Sweden (83%) and Cyprus (79%).

b. Level of regulation regarding the protection of farmed animals

A relative majority (49%) of EU citizens believe that laws regulating the protection of farmed animals should be decided jointly between the EU and at a national level. Slightly less than three in ten respondents (28%) say it should be mainly at a national level and less than one in five (19%) consider it should be a decision made mainly by the EU.

**QB4** In your opinion, at what level should decisions be taken on the laws regulating the protection of farmed animals in (OUR COUNTRY)?  
(% - EU)



Base: all respondents (N= 27,672)

In 25 Member States, a majority of respondents believe that decisions on the laws regulating the protection of farmed animals should be taken at **both EU and national levels jointly**. In Estonia, respondent opinion is divided equally between ‘at a national level only’ (44%) and ‘at both levels jointly’ (44%).

Respondents in Croatia are more likely to favour decision making at a **national level** (41%) rather than a joint effort (36%).

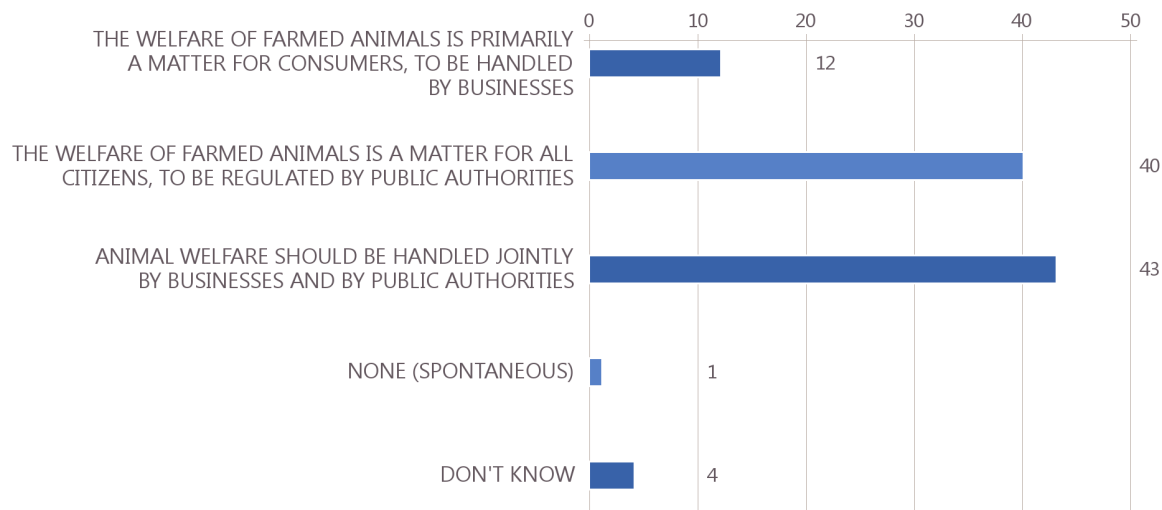
In the Czech Republic, respondents are slightly more likely to favour decisions at a national level only (43%) in comparison to those who favour decisions at both national and EU levels jointly (42%).

c. The welfare of farmed animals: a matter for consumers only or all citizens?

The relative majority of European respondents think the welfare of farmed animals should be handled jointly between businesses *and* public authorities (43%). However, there is a high proportion of respondents who believe it is a matter for all citizens, and should be regulated by the public authorities (40%). The common theme is that the public authorities should be involved in some way.

Only a minority (12%) think that it is a matter for consumers and therefore to be handled by businesses.

**QB6** Some people believe that the welfare of farmed animals is primarily a matter for consumers when buying a product and should thus be handled by businesses. Others believe it is a matter for all citizens, which should be regulated by the public authorities. Which of these is closest to your view?  
(% - EU)



Base: all respondents (N= 27,672)

In 18 Member States, a majority of respondents believe that ‘**animal welfare should be handled jointly by businesses and by public authorities**’. In nine of these countries, the absolute majority of respondents support this view, led by respondents in Estonia (67%), the Netherlands (63%) and Slovenia (60%). It is least mentioned by respondents in Austria (28%).

The leading view in the remaining 10 Member States is ‘**the welfare of farmed animals is a matter for all citizens, to be regulated by public authorities**’. The countries with the highest proportion of respondents in support for this statement are Germany (53%), Finland (51%) and Austria (50%). It is least mentioned by respondents in Estonia (17%).

**The welfare of farmed animals is primarily a matter for consumers, to be handled by businesses**’ is not the leading view amongst respondents within any Member State.

III. ANIMAL WELFARE FRIENDLY PRODUCTS

1 Willingness to pay a premium for animal welfare friendly products

Overall, 59% of EU citizens mentioned they would be prepared to pay more. More specifically, more than a third (35%) are prepared to pay up to 5% more and more than one in ten (16%) are prepared to pay 6% to 10% more for products sourced from animal welfare-friendly production systems. Very small percentages of Europeans are ready to pay 11%-20% more (5%) or more than 20% (3% of respondents).

However, more than a third of EU citizens (35%) are not ready to pay more and a small percentage mentioned spontaneously (4%) that it depended on the price of the product.

QB7 Would you be willing to pay more for products sourced from animal welfare-friendly production systems? (% - EU)



Base: all respondents (N= 27,672)

A country analysis shows that the absolute majority of respondents in 17 countries and the relative majority in one country are ready to pay more for products sourced from animal welfare-friendly production systems.

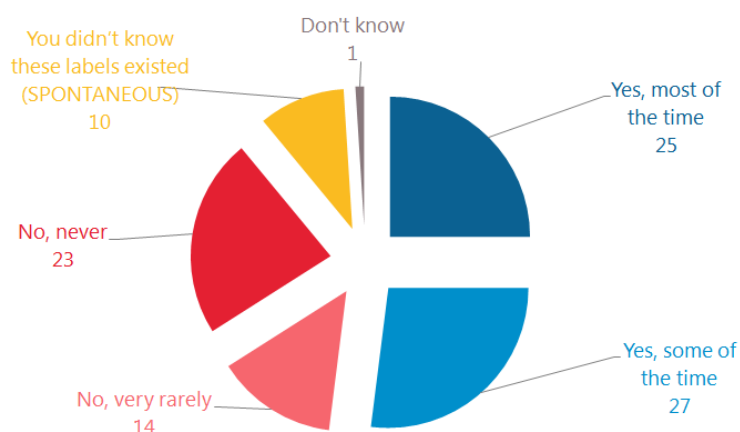
Respondents in Sweden (93%), Luxembourg (86%) and the Netherlands (85%) are more likely to be ready to pay more for products.

## 2 Interest in identifying labels for animal welfare friendly products

More than half of EU citizens (52%) look for these identifying labels when buying products. More than a quarter of respondents (27%) look for the labels “some of the time”, whilst a further 25% look “most of the time”.

By contrast, 37% of respondents never or very rarely look for the identifying labels (23% “never”, 14% “very rarely”) and one in ten Europeans (10%) didn’t know these labels even existed.

**QB9** Products sourced from animal welfare-friendly production systems may carry an identifying label. Do you look for these labels when buying such products?  
(% - EU)



Base: all respondents (N= 27,672)

At a country level, there are mixed results. In 11 Member States, the absolute majority of respondents look for the identifying label when buying from animal welfare-friendly products. In a further six countries, the relative majority of respondents look for such label.

Countries with the highest proportion of respondents looking for such animal welfare-friendly identifying label include Sweden (79%), Luxembourg (75%) and the Netherlands (73%). In these countries, a high proportion of respondents even look for the label “most of the time”: Sweden (52%), the Netherlands (43%) and Luxembourg (41%).

Out of the remaining 11 Member States, the majority of respondents do not look for identifying labels. The absolute majority of respondents in Slovenia (55%), Lithuania (53%), Spain (52%) and Slovakia (51%) do not look for the identifying labels.

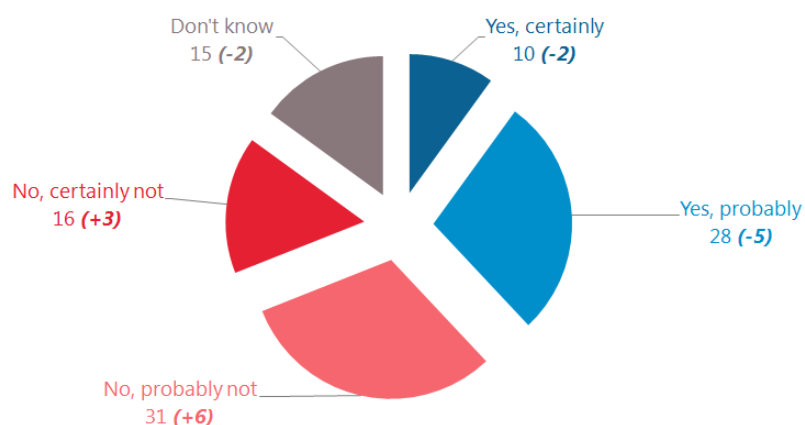
### 3 Current choice of animal welfare friendly products in shops

A relative majority of Europeans (47%, +9 percentage points) do not believe there is currently a sufficient choice of animal welfare friendly food products in shops and supermarkets. This has increased by nine percentage points since the last survey.

Slightly less than one third of respondents (31%, +6 pp) think there is “probably” not a sufficient choice, whilst 16% (+3 pp) believe there is “certainly” not enough choice.

Conversely, 38% (-7 pp) of EU citizens are satisfied with the choice available of animal welfare-friendly food products (28% “probably”, -5 pp and 10% certainly, -2 pp). This is a decline since 2006.

**QB10** Do you think there is currently a sufficient choice of animal welfare friendly food products in shops and supermarkets?  
(% - EU)



(December 2015 - September 2006)

Base: all respondents (N= 27,672)

An analysis at country level reveals quite different opinions across the Member States of the EU, with 10 countries agreeing there is currently sufficient choice, and 15 countries who have the opposing view. Two countries are equally divided in their opinions, whilst the relative majority of respondents in Estonia answer they “don’t know”.

There are 11 countries with a 10 or more percentage point decline since the last survey in 2006. The countries with the largest declines in the proportion of respondents who think there is sufficient choice include Slovenia (34%, -22 pp), France (33%, -20 pp), Finland (46%, -19 pp) and Belgium (49%, -19 pp).

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 28<sup>th</sup> November and the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015, TNS opinion & social, a consortium created between TNS political & social, TNS UK and TNS opinion, carried out the wave 84.4 of the EUROBAROMETER survey, on request of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Directorate-General for Communication, "Strategy, Corporate Communication Actions and Eurobarometer" Unit.

The wave 84.4 includes the SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER 442 and covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the 28 Member States and aged 15 years and over.

	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	DATES FIELDWORK		POPULATION 15+	PROPORTION EU28
BE	Belgium	TNS Dimarso	1.016	28/11/15	07/12/15	9.263.570	2,18%
BG	Bulgaria	TNS BBSS	1.025	28/11/15	07/12/15	6.294.563	1,48%
CZ	Czech Rep.	TNS Aisa	1.045	28/11/15	07/12/15	8.955.829	2,11%
DK	Denmark	TNS Gallup DK	1.012	28/11/15	07/12/15	4.625.032	1,09%
DE	Germany	TNS Infratest	1.527	28/11/15	07/12/15	71.283.580	16,79%
EE	Estonia	TNS Emor	1.023	28/11/15	07/12/15	1.113.355	0,26%
IE	Ireland	Behaviour & Attitudes	1.000	28/11/15	07/12/15	3.586.829	0,84%
EL	Greece	TNS ICAP	1.005	28/11/15	07/12/15	8.791.499	2,07%
ES	Spain	TNS Spain	1.006	28/11/15	07/12/15	39.506.853	9,31%
FR	France	TNS Sofres	1.038	28/11/15	07/12/15	51.668.700	12,17%
HR	Croatia	HENDAL	1.008	28/11/15	07/12/15	3.625.601	0,85%
IT	Italy	TNS Italia	967	28/11/15	07/12/15	51.336.889	12,09%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	CYMAR	501	28/11/15	07/12/15	724.084	0,17%
LV	Latvia	TNS Latvia	1.008	28/11/15	07/12/15	1.731.509	0,41%
LT	Lithuania	TNS LT	1.001	28/11/15	07/12/15	2.535.329	0,60%
LU	Luxembourg	TNS ILReS	502	28/11/15	07/12/15	445.806	0,11%
HU	Hungary	TNS Hoffmann	1.028	28/11/15	07/12/15	8.477.933	2,00%
MT	Malta	MISCO	500	28/11/15	07/12/15	360.045	0,08%
NL	Netherlands	TNS NIPO	1.042	28/11/15	07/12/15	13.901.653	3,27%
AT	Austria	ipr Umfrageforschung	1.001	28/11/15	07/12/15	7.232.497	1,70%
PL	Poland	TNS Polska	1.006	28/11/15	07/12/15	32.736.685	7,71%
PT	Portugal	TNS Portugal	1.022	28/11/15	07/12/15	8.512.269	2,01%
RO	Romania	TNS CSOP	1.002	28/11/15	07/12/15	16.880.465	3,98%
SI	Slovenia	RM PLUS	1.003	28/11/15	07/12/15	1.760.726	0,41%
SK	Slovakia	TNS Slovakia	1.036	28/11/15	07/12/15	4.580.260	1,08%
FI	Finland	TNS Gallup Oy	999	28/11/15	07/12/15	4.511.446	1,06%
SE	Sweden	TNS Sifo	1.028	28/11/15	07/12/15	7.944.034	1,87%
UK	United Kingdom	TNS UK	1.321	28/11/15	07/12/15	52.104.731	12,27%
TOTAL EU28			27.672	28/11/15	07/12/15	424.491.772	100%*

\* It should be noted that the total percentage shown in this table may exceed 100% due to rounding

The basic sample design applied in all states is a multi-stage, random (probability) one. In each country, a number of sampling points was drawn with probability proportional to population size (for a total coverage of the country) and to population density.

In order to do so, the sampling points were drawn systematically from each of the "administrative regional units", after stratification by individual unit and type of area. They thus represent the whole territory of the countries surveyed according to the EUROSTAT NUTS II<sup>1</sup> (or equivalent) and according to the distribution of the resident population of the respective nationalities in terms of metropolitan, urban and rural areas.

In each of the selected sampling points, a starting address was drawn, at random. Further addresses (every Nth address) were selected by standard "random route" procedures, from the initial address. In each household, the respondent was drawn, at random (following the "closest birthday rule"). All interviews were conducted face-to-face in people's homes and in the appropriate national language. As far as the data capture is concerned, CAPI (*Computer Assisted Personal Interview*) was used in those countries where this technique was available.

For each country a comparison between the sample and the universe was carried out. The Universe description was derived from Eurostat population data or from national statistics offices. For all countries surveyed, a national weighting procedure, using marginal and intercellular weighting, was carried out based on this Universe description. In all countries, gender, age, region and size of locality were introduced in the iteration procedure. For international weighting (i.e. EU averages), TNS opinion & social applies the official population figures as provided by EUROSTAT or national statistic offices. The total population figures for input in this post-weighting procedure are listed here.

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage. With samples of about 1,000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

Statistical Margins due to the sampling process

(at the 95% level of confidence)

various sample sizes are in rows

various observed results are in columns

	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	
N=50	6,0	8,3	9,9	11,1	12,0	12,7	13,2	13,6	13,8	13,9	N=50
N=500	1,9	2,6	3,1	3,5	3,8	4,0	4,2	4,3	4,4	4,4	N=500
<b>N=1000</b>	<b>1,4</b>	<b>1,9</b>	<b>2,2</b>	<b>2,5</b>	<b>2,7</b>	<b>2,8</b>	<b>3,0</b>	<b>3,0</b>	<b>3,1</b>	<b>3,1</b>	<b>N=1000</b>
N=1500	1,1	1,5	1,8	2,0	2,2	2,3	2,4	2,5	2,5	2,5	N=1500
N=2000	1,0	1,3	1,6	1,8	1,9	2,0	2,1	2,1	2,2	2,2	N=2000
N=3000	0,8	1,1	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,6	1,7	1,8	1,8	1,8	N=3000
N=4000	0,7	0,9	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5	N=4000
N=5000	0,6	0,8	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,3	1,4	1,4	1,4	N=5000
N=6000	0,6	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,3	1,3	N=6000
N=7000	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,2	1,2	N=7000
N=7500	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,1	N=7500
N=8000	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	N=8000
N=9000	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	N=9000
N=10000	0,4	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	N=10000
N=11000	0,4	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	N=11000
N=12000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	N=12000
N=13000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	N=13000
N=14000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	N=14000
N=15000	0,3	0,5	0,6	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	N=15000
	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	

<sup>1</sup> Figures updated in August 2015