



## Transatlantic Animal Welfare Council

### **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership: TAWC contribution to the request of comments from the United State Trade Representative.**

1. The Transatlantic Animal Welfare Council (TAWC) was created in 2010 by leading organisations from the U.S. and the EU dedicated to animal welfare. This platform was established with the objectives of strengthening the cooperation between Animal Welfare organisations, and achieving higher standards of animal welfare in Europe and in the U.S. The TAWC monitors transatlantic trade relations and reacts to the activities of the EU-US Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC).

2. The TAWC has taken note of the initiative of the EU and the U.S. to negotiate a transatlantic trade and investment partnership (TTIP). As NGOs representing millions of citizens in Europe and the US, we welcome the opportunity to contribute to the request of comments from the United State Trade Representative (USTR). The TAWC offers sound and unique expertise on welfare issues related to wildlife, farm animals, companion animals, and animal used in research.

3. The TAWC would like to remind the USTR of the results of surveys on animal welfare in the EU and in the US.

3.1. European Union citizens are clearly of the view that this is a highly important issue<sup>1</sup>. There has been a 'clear shift of public attitudes towards animals over recent decades', with consumers becoming increasingly more concerned about the implications of farming for the health and welfare of the animals involved.

3.2. Regulations related to products from animals differ between the two trading partners. Unlike the EU, the US federal regulatory process does not take into account animal welfare in regards to food and drug safety. Nevertheless, in the US, a recent survey<sup>2</sup> (11 March 2013) commissioned by Foster Farms found that consumers "want humane-certified meat and poultry products to be more widely available":

- 45 percent are very concerned about animal welfare;

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs\\_270\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_270_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.fosterfarms.com/about/press/press\\_release.asp?press\\_release\\_id=138](http://www.fosterfarms.com/about/press/press_release.asp?press_release_id=138)

- 49 percent completely agree that they are more concerned with animal welfare and how animals are raised for food than they were five years ago ;
- 74 percent completely agree that they would like more large producers to raise animals for food in a humane way ;
- 76 percent completely agree humane-certified foods should be more widely available to consumers;
- 80 percent completely agree humane-certified food should be more affordable for consumers;
- 55 percent would make a personal commitment/pledge to purchase poultry that is humane certified.

4. EU animal welfare legislation should not be breached by trade. Therefore, The TAWC believes that there should not be reduction or elimination of tariffs -or non-trade tariffs- applied to EU animal products that do not respect EU regulations on animal welfare.

5. Trade should not be detrimental to wildlife. Therefore, the TAWC requests the USTR to use TTIP negotiations to ensure a good cooperation and enforcement on illegal trade in threatened and endangered species, trade in otherwise imperiled native and non-native species, conservation and welfare protections for captive wildlife, and humane trapping standards. Within these cooperation and enforcement objectives, the TAWC also asks USTR to use TTIP negotiations to establish mechanisms for greater transparency and opportunities for public involvement.

6. The TAWC welcomed the High Level Working Group on Jobs and Growth recommendations on the need for the transatlantic partners to address environment and labour aspects of trade and sustainable development. The TAWC would like this to be concretely reflected in the TTIP and calls on the US and the EU to agree a common minimum set of environmental and social requirements for all future trade deals with other nations.

6. Better animal welfare standards in the US, can improve EU market access. TAWC urges USTR to engage cooperation and to negotiate the inclusion of a provision on animal welfare in the chapter dedicated to Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures. This will help US farmers to reach equivalent production standards on animal welfare, in particularly in the area of production methods, slaughter and transport.

7. The TAWC believes that this is important to develop a strategy to reduce the level of antimicrobial resistance that arises from the extensive use of antibiotics in livestock production.

The use of antibiotics as growth promoters should be phased out (this has already been done in the EU). A recent report<sup>3</sup> summarizes government tests of raw supermarket meat, conducted in 2011 by the Food and Drug Administration shows that antibiotic-resistant bacteria contamination was found in 81% of ground turkey, 69% of pork chops and 55% of ground beef sampled.

In addition, the regular prophylactic use of antibiotics, in which these drugs are frequently given to whole herds or flocks via their feed and water, should be brought to an end. It is particularly important to restrict the use in farming of antibiotics classified by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as 'critically important in human medicine'. Accordingly, the EU should follow the US in banning the use of fluoroquinolones in poultry. The need for antibiotics can be dramatically reduced by improving animal health through increased animal welfare, better system design and the selection of breeds that are less susceptible to disease.

8. Finally, The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) has invited us to comment on "new principles or disciplines addressing emerging challenges in international trade". The TAWC would like to insist on the inclusion of animal welfare in the chapter on sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) of the TTIP.

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<sup>3</sup> [http://static.ewg.org/reports/2013/meateaters/ewg\\_meat\\_and\\_antibiotics\\_report2013.pdf](http://static.ewg.org/reports/2013/meateaters/ewg_meat_and_antibiotics_report2013.pdf)