



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY
Health and food audits and analysis
Director

Grange,
SANTE.F2 [REDACTED]

**Subject: Reference number: DG(SANTE)/Project P16632- TAILS missions
Information from the Commission on advisory recommendations from
TAILS missions to assist Member States and the pig sector in preventing
tail biting and avoiding routine tail docking of pigs and request to publish
action plans**

Dear [REDACTED],

With regard to disseminating the results of the recently completed TAILS missions, please find enclosed the collated recommendations from the four countries visited. As you know, these are advisory recommendations and you may consider them as peer-to-peer advice. As stated in the TAILS mission plan and in agreement with your services these recommendations will also be forwarded to the pig sector and to the Federation of Veterinarians in Europe (FVE).

The Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety's current project to reduce the systematic tail docking of pigs in the EU is now entering its final phase. We are carrying out four audits in 2019 to gauge progress with the implementation of the action plans. The next step is to review possible options for enforcement of legal requirements for those Member States, which have not taken satisfactory action to reach full compliance.

As you may recall from the recent presentations in Grange in November 2018 and at the Chief Veterinary Officers' meeting of 30 January 2019, progress with the implementation of action plans remains unsatisfactory in many Member States. In this regard, we are providing the following information, which may be of interest to your service and stakeholders:

- The collated TAILS recommendations in the Annex;
- We have uploaded presentations given by the Competent Authorities and the pig and research sectors during the TAILS missions to the Directorate for health and food audits and analysis open access CIRCABC platform on pigs at [Reducing Tail Biting](#)

[REDACTED]
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and Routine Tail Docking of Pigs. We will also upload to the platform a compilation of additional anonymised questions from the pig sector and responses from the TAILS team that are not covered in the TAILS recommendations.

- Three Member States have already uploaded their action plans to the Commission's Animal Welfare Platform: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/eu-platform-animal-welfare_en. This information can serve as a useful resource for other Member States and potentially prevent duplication and wasted effort.

If you have not already done so, we urge you to publish your action plan in order to allow other Member States to share any possible best practices detailed therein. Please send your action plans for publication on the Commission's EU Animal Welfare Platform to: [REDACTED]@ext.ec.europa.eu. We also intend to share them on the CIRCABC platform on pigs. Therefore, when sending your action plans, please put sante-consult-xx@xx.xxxxxx.xx in copy.

I would be grateful if you could quote the reference number above in all correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

(e-signed)

Paola Colombo
Director

Encl.: Annex: Advisory Recommendations from TAILS experts