

# POLICY MAKERS

## FACTSHEET



The EU recognized animal welfare as an important trade issue and international concern in the 1970s, and thus confirmed that the treatment of animals at slaughter or killing has an impact on the **quality of meat**, and thereby on **competitiveness**. In order to avoid trade distortions within its territory, the EU intervened by including provisions on animal welfare in the AcquisCommunautaire.

However, only the **Regulation No. 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at slaughter** must be transposed and implemented by third countries wishing to export to the EU, including **BiH**. This Regulation for instance obliges the state to provide health certificates for the exported meat, which must be supplemented by an attestation certifying that requirements at least equivalent to those laid down in Chapters II and III of the Regulation are met. These are related to stunning methods and slaughterhouse design, as well as the appointment of animal welfare officers in slaughterhouses.

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**As a response to the negative report of the FVO following its last inspection during January and February 2012, BiH authorities developed an Action Plan to meet the necessary requirements and enable export to the EU. However, not a single one of the 30 measures concerns animal welfare.**

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**Wherein then lies the problem?** Croatia, BiH's next-door neighbor and most important trade partner, is to join the EU as a full member on 1 July 2013, which might cause **considerable economic losses** due to BiH's **inability to continue exporting** products of animal origin to Croatia. This poses the question, whether BiH politicians are expecting this scenario prepared. Although a certain number of laws concerning the export of food products have been adopted, there are still gaps that need to be filled immediately.

During its research, Populari identified the following problematic areas:

- **(Non)implementation of hygiene package**, as well as other laws concerning animal welfare
- **Overlapping competencies** of various institutions and the absence of a central competent authority
- **Lack of education** and understanding of the concept of animal welfare and the requirements related to its protection among the state authorities as well as in the private sector

### Solutions?

- **Full implementation of national legislation on animal welfare** that is transposed from EU regulations before inviting the FVO to conduct an inspection.
- The BiH Veterinary Office is the **central authority** concerning this matter, and should as such also be backed by the entity ministries and inspections, including regular reporting and coordination of activities. On the other hand, the state Veterinary Office should take full responsibility and be more active on the matter.
- **Trainings** for civil servants, inspectors and the private sector should be **formalized** and **mandatory** as January 2013 approaches.

***BiH authorities should establish partner relations with companies and in cooperation with them enable the continuation of export to Croatia.***

***Also, an acknowledgment that reforms are necessary is needed for ensuring security of the final consumers – in BiH there are 4 million, while in the potential EU market there are 503 million.***