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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Council Conclusions on an EU-wide animal welfare label
	− Statement by Italy

Delegations will find in annex a statement by the Italian delegation presented at the meeting of the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council on 15-16 December 2020.

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Declaration of Italy on the Council Conclusions on
an EU-wide animal welfare label

Italy would like to thank the German Presidency for the Council Conclusions on an EU-wide animal welfare label.

Italy acknowledges the high level of well-being already provided to farmed animals by the legislation in force in the European Union and regards the EU-wide label as an opportunity to further improve it and, at the same time, ensure a clearer information to consumers and promote a fairer compensation for producers.

Considering that the AW labelling must necessarily be based on requirements exceeding the mandatory ones set by the EU legislation, joining the labelling scheme must inevitably remain a voluntary choice for food business operators.

The AW labelling system should provide for the gradual inclusion of all farmed species and should ideally be referred to the entire lifetime of animals. Nonetheless, under specific circumstances, it could be more appropriate and proportionate to assess the conditions under which the animals have been kept for a significant part of their life.

Italy believes that animal welfare is deeply interconnected with other dimensions of animal husbandry that are mutually influenced, such as the health status of animals, the consumption of veterinary medicines and the biosecurity of farms. As a consequence of this relation, the comprehensive and simultaneous assessment of all these dimensions is deemed to be the most adequate basis to build a solid system to measure and improve the sustainability of livestock productions.

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