Trainee's Answer

Trainee's Answer  
Date: 1 June 202X  
To: Ms Heinrich (Director General of DG SANTE)  
Subject: Animal welfare legislative proposal   
Main issues at stake (remaining problems)  
- To address the specific objective of the animal welfare legislation revision, we have 4 policy measures with different ambition options (low, medium, high): 1) Pigs 2) Calves 3) Laying hens and pullets 4) Rabbits and fur-producing animals. The general transition period: 5-12 years depending on the level of the ambition (please see the table attached)  
- For the banning of i) the killing of day-old male chicks and ii) paintful mutilations we should consider a ten years' transition period.   
Reccommendations  
- we need to make sure to have similar or fully equivalent animal welfare requirements for products of animal origin imported to the EU  
- the pressure over production costs due to a competitive global market for the farmers and all food business operators led to further intensification of the killing practices, and to a replacement of small farms by very large industrial scale installations  
- we need to consider technological developments in relation to agricultural practices, zootechnics and transport operations  
- we ned to have harmonised EU rules in order to stop MSs to adopt different national measures that jeropardise the legal landscape also for animal welfare labelling.  
- the policy option to be most cost-efficient is a total prohibition on the use of cages for laying hens with a transition period of 5 years. The same requirment should be applied for eggs and egg products imported to the EU form 3rd countries.  
- as suggested by DG AGRI a compensation mechnism for farmers should be taken into consideratino to avoid the increase of the price for consumers.  
- we should take into consideration also the recommendation of the EFSA concerning the livestock density that should be reduced: free range layer birds with more interactions with each other can lead to an increased incidence of infectious poultry disease  
Backgorund information  
- After an European citizen's initiative "End the cage Age" and an own initiative resolution of the EUropean Parliament recommending a total ban on the use of cages in animal agriculture, the Commission is revising the Animal welfare Regulation.   
- We launched an inter-service consultation on the review of the the animal welfare Regulation, we got green light by all DGs except DG AGRI.

Human Evaluator

# Actual Overall Score

OVERALL SCORE: 5.0/10

# Actual Overall Summary

Overall Summary:   
Summary  
  
According to the Notice of Competitions of current EPSO competitions, the only competency that will be assessed in the Case Study exam is Written Communication

# Actual Communication Score

COMMUNICATION SCORE: 5.0/10

# Actual Communication Summary

Communication Summary:   
Observations  
Although written in a pleasing style, the briefing document would have benefitted from a clearer structure.   
E.g., introduction & background/ main issues /options for the way forward & recommendations/ conclusion.   
  
The candidate has successfully identified the main areas of concern and offered some recommendations. But some of the information towards the end of the document would have worked better in the introduction/background section where it could have provided better context.  
  
The issue with DG AGRI should have been flagged immediately and expanded upon.  
  
The candidate has made an effort to explain the low, medium and high ambition options that the legislative proposal is based on, as well as the main issues involved. Perhaps these issues could have been listed in a clearer way.   
E.g.:  
The legislative proposal includes new or stricter rules in four areas:   
1. restricting the use of cages/crates;  
2. ending the killing of day-old male chickens;  
3. banning painful and unnecessary mutilations; and  
4. setting animal welfare requirements at import.  
  
Overall, the main issues section needs to be expanded to detail the support from other DGs, as well as the concern and viewpoints of DG AGRI and DG SANTE.  
  
The candidate has done a good job in summarizing some key issues in relation to space requirement concerns and that farmers would need to be compensated. The risk of unfair competition from third countries is mentioned but not fully explored.  
  
Would also have been useful to touch on the following points:  
  
E.g.:  
- Perhaps mention that the impact assessment shows a lower price impact than what DG AGRI claims.   
- Also, could expand by explaining that it is not the main issue for small farmers, as cage rearing is mostly done by large-scale industrial farms.   
- Additionally, that for several member states, the cage ban will make no difference as they have already adopted the ban with national legislation. The cage ban therefore helps create a more level playing field.   
  
In the recommendations section, there are some good suggestions made. But overall, there is a tendency to veer towards being too concise, to the detriment of the briefing. Fully expand on the reasoning behind taking different options.  
  
Could have also included more concrete options for the way forward in reaching an agreement with DG AGRI.   
  
E.g.: Compromise on cage ban or compromise on import rules. Could more fully analyse the reasoning for each option and add suggestions that lead to a solution, such as accept the high-ambition proposal on laying hen cages in exchange for increasing the level of ambition in terms of the export rules (full alignment with EU rules also for third countries).  
  
Provide a conclusion that summarizes your recommendations as well as briefly explaining why this is the best course of action.   
  
Provide a fall-back option if there is one available.

# Actual Tips/Errors

Tips/Suggestions for Improvement (if any):   
Tips to Improve  
  
Work on clarity of structure.  
  
2 pages is acceptable, meaning you don’t have to be so concise on key issues.   
  
Provide enough detail by writing complete paragraphs to fully explain the reasoning behind recommendations.   
  
Ensure you leave time to proofread to avoid typos.  
  
Spelling/Grammar Errors (if any):

AI Evaluator

# Predicted Overall Score

Overall Score (out-off 10): 5.0

# Predicted Overall Summary

Overall Summary:  
Thank you for your submission. You have provided a comprehensive overview of the main issues and recommendations regarding the animal welfare legislative proposal. Your analysis of the different policy measures and the potential impact on farmers and consumers is well-presented. However, there are a few areas where you can improve your response.  
  
Areas of Improvement:  
1. Content: While you have addressed the main issues and provided recommendations, it would be beneficial to provide more specific details and evidence to support your arguments. For example, when discussing the impact on production costs, you can provide specific data or examples to illustrate the challenges faced by farmers.  
  
2. Clarity: Some of your sentences are long and complex, which can make it difficult for the reader to follow your arguments. Try to break down your sentences into shorter, more concise statements to improve clarity and readability.  
  
3. Organization: Consider structuring your response with clear headings and subheadings to make it easier for the reader to navigate through the information. This will also help to improve the overall organization and flow of your response.  
  
4. Grammar and Mechanics: Pay attention to grammar and punctuation errors throughout your response. Proofread your work carefully to ensure that your writing is clear and error-free.  
  
Strong Points:  
1. Analysis of Stakeholder Opinions: You have effectively summarized the opinions of DG AGRI, DG ENV, and DG TRADE on the proposed revised regulation. This demonstrates your understanding of the different perspectives and interests involved in the decision-making process.  
  
2. Consideration of Import Rules: Your recommendation to focus on stricter import rules as a compromise with DG AGRI is well-reasoned. This shows your ability to consider alternative solutions to address concerns raised by stakeholders.  
  
3. Awareness of Economic Incentives: Your suggestion to explore compensation mechanisms for farmers to mitigate the potential increase in prices for consumers shows your understanding of the economic implications of the proposed regulation.  
  
Tips for Improvement:  
1. Provide more specific evidence and examples to support your arguments and recommendations.  
  
2. Break down complex sentences into shorter, more concise statements to improve clarity.  
  
3. Use clear headings and subheadings to improve the organization and flow of your response.  
  
4. Proofread your work carefully to eliminate grammar and punctuation errors.  
  
Overall, your response demonstrates a good understanding of the main issues and considerations regarding the animal welfare legislative proposal. With some improvements in content, clarity, organization, and grammar, your response will be even stronger. Keep up the good work!

# Predicted Communication Score

Communication Score (out-off 10): 5.0

# Predicted Communication Summary

KEY OBSERVATIONS:  
- The trainee's answer provides a brief overview of the main issues and recommendations regarding the animal welfare legislative proposal.  
- The writing style is clear and concise, with well-structured paragraphs.  
- The trainee addresses the need for similar animal welfare requirements for imported products and the potential impact on production costs.  
- The trainee mentions the recommendation of the EFSA regarding livestock density and the need for compensation mechanisms for farmers.  
- The trainee demonstrates an understanding of the different perspectives and interests involved in the decision-making process.  
  
COMMUNICATION SUMMARY:  
According to the Notice of Competitions of current EPSO competitions, the only competency that will be assessed in the Case Study exam is Written Communication. Therefore, only this competency was assessed in your evaluation.  
  
Your answer provides a clear and concise overview of the main issues and recommendations regarding the animal welfare legislative proposal. You address the need for similar animal welfare requirements for imported products and consider the potential impact on production costs. Your writing style is clear and well-structured, making it easy to follow your arguments.  
  
To further improve your performance, consider providing more specific details and evidence to support your recommendations. Additionally, ensure that you adapt your message and style to the needs of the Director-General, considering their perspective and potential concerns. Overall, your answer demonstrates a good understanding of the topic and the different perspectives involved. Keep up the good work!

# Predicted Tips/Errors

TIPS/SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:  
- Your answer lacks a clear structure and organization. It is important to have separate sections or paragraphs for each main issue or recommendation.  
- Provide more specific details and explanations for each recommendation. For example, when mentioning the need for similar animal welfare requirements for imported products, explain why this is important and how it can be achieved.  
- Use bullet points or numbered lists to make your recommendations and background information more clear and concise.  
- Make sure to address all the main issues mentioned in the case study, such as the concerns raised by DG AGRI and the need for a compromise solution.  
  
SPELLING/GRAMMAR ERRORS:  
- "Reccommendations" should be spelled as "Recommendations"  
- "jeropardise" should be spelled as "jeopardize"  
- "consideratino" should be spelled as "consideration"  
- "EUropean" should be spelled as "European"