Trainee's Answer

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European Commission  
DG SANTE  
Animal Welfare Unit  
Briefing note  
1st of June 202X  
For the attention of Ms Heinrich, Director-General  
Subject: Animal welfare legislative proposal  
Reference: Impact assessment report on Animal welfare: revised regulation of 13 October 202X-1  
Background:  
Last year, the European Comission has prepared an working document of Animal welfare regulation. This year, there was an inter-service consultation with DG AGRI, DG ENV, DG TRADE on animal welfare regulation, on 16/05/202X. Conventional livestock production systems across EU countries are put under pressure by competitive global markets. The pressure to have lower prices on certain foods has led to intensification of farming with negative effect on animal welfare. The purpose of this briefing is to make more clarity towards the decision of which option to choose for the animal welfare regulation.  
Policy objectives:  
A. Phasing out confining cages  
A general transition period needed.  
B. Banning the killing of day-old male chiks  
In case of a ban, a transition period need to be combined with stricter import rules.   
C. Banning paintfull mutilations  
Incentives for voluntary action would enter into force imediatelly.   
D. Annimal welfare requirements at import  
Similar or fully equivalent.   
I. Main issues and remaining problems to solve  
1. - There is a pressure to reduce production costs, which leads to conditions and equipment they may harm the animals.   
2. - Around three hundred million farmed animals are confined in cages every year accross Europe. No single EU country is cage free.  
3. - Not all the DG agree with the line of the animal welfare regulation. The current legislation is outdated, fragmented and too general.   
4. - Need to choose between ethics and prices. The impact of imposing the animal welfare regulation will lead to increase in prices. For the moment there is a lack of incentives to invest in animal welfare. A partial or total ban on cages would have an important economic impact on the sectors concerned.   
II. Arguments and facts to ease a decision - the way foreward on animal welfare regulation  
DG AGRI does not yet agree with DG SANTE main line on animal welfare regulation. The number of poultry cage need to be determined or incetives to the farmers to ba established.   
Strengths  
- we received confirmation from DG ENV that the proposal is in line with the European Green Deal objectives  
- increase animal welfare protection  
Disadvantages  
- the big farmers cannot compete with cage free adoption because they would need more space, as underlines DG AGRI. This will lead to a price increase of 20-40% in countries like Spain, Portugal and Malta.   
- the European farmers will not be able to compete with third countries producers, who do not take into account animal welfare.  
In conclusion  
There are 3 types of options: low, medium and high. Medium and high ambition options can be combined with stricter requirements of minimum space per animal and antibiotics to be used.   
a. Following the comments received after the interservice consultation, the low ambition option or status quo should apply for protecting the market and ensure competitive pricing of food products for animal welfare.   
b. As the citizens are putting pressure through an European initiative, a decision on animal welfare should be taken asap.   
c. Regarding the poultry cage rearing, the smaller the farms, easier it is for them to implement cage free rearing.  
d. The domino effect will start from animal welfare regulation - higher food prices - burden on poor families. DG AGRI proposal of incentives seem to be a solution.   
Recommendation prefered on animal welfare regulation  
In conclusion there is an urge to implement as soon as possible the 'cage free' legislation for animals, accompagned by a cost/efficiency analysis. In parallel to the legislation, in order to facilitate a balanced economy, financial support and incentives may be provided through the new eco-schemes instrument of DG AGRI. Accepting the economic compensations to poultry farming will suggested by DG AGRI, will unblock our proposal on animal welfare regulation.   
The legislation should be more specific and sustanable, in accordance to the European Green Deal Objectives. Last, but not least, awarness -raising of consumers, economic incentives via the Common Agricultural Policy and import rules to ensure a level of competition.   
Therefore a mix between medium and high ambition options is preferred.

Human Evaluator

# Actual Overall Score

OVERALL SCORE: 6.0/10

# 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: 6.0/10

# Actual Communication Summary

Communication Summary:   
Observations  
Generally, this is a very good attempt to present a complex issue.  
The introductory paragraph conveys relevant background information regarding the topic. However, the written style needs work in terms of professional fluency, and there are grammar issues that need to be ironed out.   
  
Also, I’m not entirely clear on the focus of the briefing from this introduction, as the disagreement of DG AGRI should be flagged from the outset.   
  
In the policy objective section, the key issues are set out clearly in bullet points. However, from I. Main Issues, the briefing gives the impression of being a work-in-progress, due to its overreliance on writing in note form. Because of this, the text seems slightly disjointed and there is a lack of coherence at times.   
Furthermore, some points are not elaborated on further, analysed for their significance, or more completely argued.   
Some key details and relevant information is omitted or generalized. Providing more specifics and data on key issues will give a more comprehensive overview of the situation and lead to more informed reasoning regarding the solutions going forward.   
E.g.:  
- Could have mentioned that the impact assessment shows a lower price impact than what DG AGRI claims.   
- The timing for bans were subject to being based on low, medium or high ambition options for each measure, so briefly mention what these options mean.  
  
The suggestions given are commendable, but these need to be clearer, with recommendations given with solid reasoning as well as an exploration of consequences.  
  
Some further grammar issues and several typos impact the readability of the document.

# Actual Tips/Errors

Tips/Suggestions for Improvement (if any):   
Tips to improve  
  
Give more thought to both overall structure and paragraph structure. Think about the order of your sentences in the introduction i.e., how to construct it in terms of relaying information in a logical progression.   
Write with more confidence and fluency rather than relying on note form.  
Leave enough time to read over for fluency and typos.   
Expand on solutions/recommendations by providing reasons for each and explore the advantages and disadvantages for each course of action.  
  
Spelling/Grammar Errors (if any):

AI Evaluator

# Predicted Overall Score

Overall Score (out-off 10): 6.8

# Predicted Overall Summary

Overall Summary:  
Your briefing note provides a good overview of the main issues and arguments related to the animal welfare legislative proposal. You have highlighted the concerns raised by DG AGRI and the need to find a compromise solution. Your arguments are clear and supported by relevant facts and information. However, there are a few areas where you can improve the clarity and organization of your briefing note.  
  
The strong points of your text were the following:  
- You have provided a clear introduction and background information on the animal welfare legislative proposal.  
- You have identified the main issues and remaining problems to be solved, including the pressure to reduce production costs and the disagreement between DG AGRI and DG SANTE.  
- You have presented arguments and facts to support your recommendation for a compromise solution, taking into account the concerns of DG AGRI and the need for animal welfare protection.  
  
Where I suggest improvement is:  
- Clarity: Some of your sentences are unclear and could be rephrased to improve clarity. Make sure to use clear and concise language to convey your points effectively.  
- Organization: The organization of your briefing note could be improved. Consider using subheadings or bullet points to make it easier for the reader to follow the main points and arguments.  
- Referencing: When referring to specific sources or documents, provide more specific information such as the date or title of the document. This will make your references more precise and credible.  
  
The quality, relevance, and conciseness of your arguments were good. You have provided strong arguments supported by relevant facts and information. However, make sure to clearly differentiate between your own arguments and the opinions of other stakeholders, such as DG AGRI or DG ENV.  
  
Overall, your briefing note provides a good overview of the main issues and arguments related to the animal welfare legislative proposal. With some improvements in clarity, organization, and referencing, your briefing note will be even more effective in helping the Director-General make an informed decision.  
  
Personalized Tips for Improvement:  
- Use clear and concise language to improve the clarity of your arguments.  
- Consider using subheadings or bullet points to improve the organization of your briefing note.  
- Provide more specific information when referencing sources or documents to enhance the credibility of your arguments.

# Predicted Communication Score

Communication Score (out-off 10): 5.0

# Predicted 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 response to the case study provides a brief overview of the main issues related to the "End the cage age" initiative and presents some arguments and facts to support your recommendations. However, there are several areas where you can improve your communication and organization of the information.  
  
Firstly, your response lacks a clear structure and logical flow. It is important to organize your thoughts and present the information in a coherent manner. Consider using headings and subheadings to separate different sections and make it easier for the reader to follow your arguments.  
  
Secondly, your response could benefit from providing more specific examples and references to support your arguments. This will make your points more convincing and demonstrate a deeper understanding of the topic. Additionally, make sure to clearly state the sources of your information to enhance the credibility of your arguments.  
  
Furthermore, your response should be more concise and focused. Avoid unnecessary repetition and provide only the most relevant information. This will help to keep your response clear and to the point.  
  
In terms of language and style, your response is generally clear and understandable. However, there are some grammatical errors and awkward sentence structures that could be improved. Take the time to proofread your response and ensure that your sentences are grammatically correct and flow smoothly.  
  
Overall, your response shows potential, but there is room for improvement in terms of organization, clarity, and supporting evidence. I recommend practicing structuring your arguments more effectively, providing specific examples and references, and refining your language skills to enhance the overall quality of your written communication.  
  
Keep practicing and pay attention to these areas for improvement. Good luck with your future preparations!

# Predicted Tips/Errors

TIPS/SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:  
- Use clear and concise language to convey your points. Avoid using long and convoluted sentences.  
- Organize your briefing note into sections with clear headings to improve readability.  
- Provide more specific details and examples to support your arguments and recommendations.  
- Use proper punctuation and capitalization throughout your briefing note.  
  
SPELLING/GRAMMAR ERRORS:  
- "Comission" should be "Commission"  
- "chiks" should be "chicks"  
- "Annimal" should be "Animal"  
- "foreward" should be "forward"  
- "ba" should be "be"  
- "incetives" should be "incentives"  
- "sustanable" should be "sustainable"  
- "awarness" should be "awareness"