Trainee's Answer

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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:  
Your response provides a good overview of the main issues and recommendations regarding the animal welfare legislative proposal. You accurately identify the remaining problems and offer suggestions for addressing them. Your recommendations are well-supported and take into account factors such as competitiveness, import rules, and technological developments. However, there are a few areas where you could improve the clarity and organization of your response.   
  
Areas of Improvement:  
1. 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 ideas into shorter, more concise sentences to improve clarity.  
2. Organization: Consider organizing your response into clear sections or bullet points to make it easier for the reader to navigate and understand your recommendations.  
3. Specificity: Provide more specific examples or evidence to support your recommendations. This will strengthen your arguments and make them more persuasive.  
  
Strong Points:  
1. Understanding of the main issues: You accurately identify the main issues at stake in the animal welfare legislative proposal, including the different policy measures and the need for harmonized EU rules.  
2. Consideration of stakeholder perspectives: You take into account the concerns of DG AGRI and propose a compromise solution that addresses their main concern while maintaining the preferred options for animal welfare.  
3. Awareness of external factors: You mention the need to consider technological developments and the recommendations of the EFSA, showing a comprehensive understanding of the broader context of the proposal.  
  
Suggestions for Improvement:  
1. Clarity: Break down complex sentences into shorter, more concise sentences to improve clarity and readability.  
2. Organization: Consider organizing your response into clear sections or bullet points to improve the structure and make it easier for the reader to follow your arguments.  
3. Specificity: Provide more specific examples or evidence to support your recommendations, which will strengthen your arguments and make them more persuasive.  
  
Overall, your response demonstrates a good understanding of the main issues and offers well-supported recommendations. By improving the clarity and organization of your response, as well as providing more specific examples, you can further enhance the effectiveness of your communication.

# 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 demonstrates a good understanding of the main issues and arguments related to the "End the cage age" initiative. You provide a clear summary of the background and main issues, including the citizen's initiative, the draft legislative proposal, the inter-service consultation, and the decision-making process.  
  
Your arguments and facts section effectively highlights the key points supporting the ban on cages for farm animals, such as animal welfare, health and safety, and economic implications. You also mention the importance of stakeholder engagement and the need to reach a compromise text in the college of Commissioners.  
  
In terms of clarity and organization, your response is well-structured and easy to follow. You provide a clear introduction and background, followed by a section on the main issues and recommendations for the way forward. Your conclusion effectively summarizes your recommendations.  
  
One area for improvement is the use of more specific examples or references to support your arguments. Providing specific statistics or studies related to animal welfare, health and safety, and economic implications would strengthen your arguments and make them more persuasive.  
  
Overall, your response demonstrates a good understanding of the case study and effectively addresses the main issues. With some improvements in providing more specific examples or references, your response would be even stronger.  
  
In summary:  
- The strong points of your text were the clear summary of the main issues, the effective organization and structure, and the understanding of the case study.  
- Where I suggest improvement is to provide more specific examples or references to support your arguments.  
  
To improve your written communication skills, I recommend practicing providing specific examples or references to support your arguments. This will make your writing more persuasive and enhance the overall quality of your responses.

# Predicted Tips/Errors

TIPS/SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:  
- Your response lacks clarity and organization. It is important to structure your answer in a clear and logical manner, addressing each main issue separately.  
- Use bullet points or paragraphs to separate different points or recommendations, making it easier for the reader to follow your arguments.  
- Provide more specific examples or evidence to support your recommendations. This will make your response more persuasive and credible.  
- Make sure to address all the main issues mentioned in the case study, providing a comprehensive analysis and recommendations for each one.  
  
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."  
- "the the" should be corrected to "the."