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 The current legislation is outdated, fragmented and too general.   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 for a compromise solution. However, there are some areas where you can improve the clarity and organization of your content.  
  
Areas of Improvement:  
1. Content Management: Your briefing note could benefit from a clearer structure and organization. Consider using headings and subheadings to separate different sections and make it easier for the reader to navigate through the information.  
  
2. Clarity: Some of your statements are unclear or lack specificity. For example, when discussing the options for the way forward, it would be helpful to provide more specific details on what a compromise on the import rules would entail and how it would address DG AGRI's concerns.  
  
3. Use of Evidence: While you have provided some arguments and facts to support your recommendations, it would be beneficial to include more quantitative data or specific examples to strengthen your points. This would make your briefing note more persuasive and credible.  
  
4. Language and Grammar: Pay attention to the clarity and accuracy of your language. There are some grammatical errors and awkward sentence constructions that can be improved. Make sure to proofread your text carefully before finalizing it.  
  
Suggestions for Improvement:  
1. Improve the structure of your briefing note by using headings and subheadings to separate different sections. This will make it easier for the reader to follow the flow of your arguments.  
  
2. Provide more specific details and evidence to support your recommendations. For example, when discussing the compromise on import rules, explain what specific changes or requirements could be implemented to address DG AGRI's concerns.  
  
3. Use quantitative data or specific examples to strengthen your arguments. For instance, you can include statistics on the economic impact of the proposed regulations or examples of successful implementation of similar measures in other countries.  
  
4. Review your language and grammar to ensure clarity and accuracy. Pay attention to sentence structure, word choice, and proofread your text carefully to eliminate any errors.  
  
Overall, your briefing note provides a good foundation, but it can be further improved by enhancing the structure, providing more specific evidence, and ensuring clarity in your language and grammar. Keep up the good work and continue to refine your writing skills in the context of the EPSO exam.

# 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 good overview of the main issues and arguments related to the "End the cage age" initiative and the proposed revised animal welfare regulation. You have identified the key stakeholders involved and their positions on the issue.   
  
One strong point of your text is that you have provided a clear summary of the main issues and arguments, including the concerns raised by DG AGRI and the support from DG ENV and DG TRADE. You have also mentioned the impact assessment report and its findings.  
  
However, there are areas where improvement is needed. Firstly, your response lacks a clear structure and organization. It would be beneficial to divide your text into sections or paragraphs to make it easier to follow. Additionally, your response could benefit from a more concise and jargon-free writing style.   
  
Furthermore, it is important to provide more specific evidence or examples to support your arguments. For example, when discussing the economic implications of transitioning away from cage systems, you could provide data or studies that demonstrate the potential for innovation and job creation in the agricultural sector.  
  
In terms of the quality, relevance, and conciseness of your arguments, your response provides a good overview of the main issues and arguments. However, there is room for improvement in terms of providing more specific evidence or examples to support your arguments.  
  
Overall, your response demonstrates a good understanding of the case study and the main issues at hand. With some improvements in organization, writing style, and the use of specific evidence, your response could be even stronger.   
  
To improve your writing skills, I would suggest practicing structuring your responses with clear sections or paragraphs, using a concise and jargon-free writing style, and providing specific evidence or examples to support your arguments. Additionally, reviewing and editing your work for clarity and coherence can also help improve the overall quality of your writing.

# 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 make it easier to read and understand.  
- Provide more specific and detailed information about the main issues and remaining problems related to the animal welfare regulation.  
- Clearly state the arguments and facts that support your proposed options for the way forward.  
- Use bullet points or numbered lists to present information in a more organized and structured manner.  
- Avoid making general statements without providing evidence or examples to support your claims.  
- Proofread your briefing note for spelling and grammar errors.  
  
SPELLING/GRAMMAR ERRORS:  
- "Comission" should be spelled as "Commission".  
- "Chiks" should be spelled as "chicks".  
- "Annimal" should be spelled as "animal".  
- "Foreward" should be spelled as "forward".  
- "Ba" should be spelled as "be".  
- "Accompanied" is misspelled as "accompagned".  
- "Sustanable" should be spelled as "sustainable".  
- "Awarness" should be spelled as "awareness".  
  
GRAMMAR MISTAKES:  
- "The number of poultry cage need to be determined or incetives to the farmers to ba established." should be "The number of poultry cages needs to be determined or incentives need to be established for the farmers."  
- "The domino effect will start from animal welfare regulation - higher food prices - burden on poor families." should be "The domino effect will start with the animal welfare regulation, leading to higher food prices and burdening poor families."  
- "Recommendation prefered on animal welfare regulation" should be "Preferred recommendation on animal welfare regulation".  
  
Note: The trainee's answer lacks clarity and organization. The content is not well-structured and contains several spelling and grammar errors. The trainee should focus on providing more specific information and using clear and concise language to convey their points. Proofreading for spelling and grammar errors is also necessary.