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): 6.8

# Predicted Overall Summary

Overall Summary:  
The trainee's answer provides a brief overview of the main issues and recommendations regarding the animal welfare legislative proposal. The trainee addresses the four policy measures and transition periods, as well as the need for equivalent animal welfare requirements for imported products. They also mention the pressure on production costs and the replacement of small farms by large industrial scale installations. The trainee suggests considering technological developments, harmonized EU rules, and a total prohibition on the use of cages for laying hens with a transition period of 5 years. They also mention the need for compensation mechanisms for farmers and the recommendation of the EFSA regarding livestock density. However, the answer lacks clarity, coherence, and organization. The trainee's arguments and reasoning are not well-developed, and the answer lacks supporting evidence or references.  
  
Feedback:  
1. The central theme/definition of the subject area and content is not clear. The trainee briefly mentions the main issues and recommendations, but the answer lacks a clear structure and organization.  
2. The trainee does not provide convincing arguments or solid reasoning to support their recommendations. The answer lacks supporting evidence or references to back up their claims.  
3. The trainee does not clearly signal the difference between facts and opinions. The answer lacks clear references or citations to support their statements.  
4. The trainee does not take into account the point of view of others. The answer does not mention or address the opinions of other departments within the European Commission.  
5. There is no evident bias in the document.  
6. The trainee does not use adequate titles and subtitles. The answer lacks a clear structure and organization.  
7. The trainee does not present a balanced amount of detail. The answer provides a brief overview of the main issues and recommendations without sufficient elaboration or supporting evidence.  
8. The trainee does not provide supporting statistics in the text. The answer lacks quantitative data to support their arguments or recommendations.  
9. The document does not have a titled Introduction section.  
10. The document does not have a titled recommendations section.  
11. The document does not have a titled conclusions section.  
12. The text does not mention any specific EU member states.  
13. The text does not contain information on non-EU countries/international context.  
  
The strong points of the trainee's text were the following:  
- The trainee briefly addresses the main issues and recommendations regarding the animal welfare legislative proposal.  
  
Where I suggest improvement is:  
- The trainee should provide more specific examples or evidence to support their arguments and recommendations.  
- The trainee should clearly structure their answer with titles and subtitles to improve organization and readability.  
- The trainee should provide a more comprehensive analysis of the main issues and consider the opinions of other departments within the European Commission.  
- The trainee should include quantitative data or statistics to support their arguments and recommendations.  
- The trainee should provide a titled Introduction, recommendations, and conclusions section to improve the structure of their answer.  
- The trainee should consider the international context and the impact of the proposed measures on non-EU countries.  
  
The quality, relevance, and conciseness of the trainee's arguments were not sufficient. The trainee's answer lacks clarity, coherence, and supporting evidence. The trainee should provide more specific examples, references, and data to strengthen their arguments and recommendations. The trainee should also improve the organization and structure of their answer to enhance readability and comprehension.

# 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.  
  
Summary:  
The trainee's answer provides a brief overview of the main issues and recommendations for the animal welfare legislative proposal. However, there are several areas where the answer could be improved in terms of clarity, organization, and style.  
  
Clarity:  
The trainee's answer lacks clarity in some parts. The trainee mentions four policy measures without providing specific details about each measure. It would be helpful to provide more information about each measure and its impact on animal welfare. Additionally, the trainee mentions the need for harmonized EU rules but does not explain why this is important or how it relates to the main issues.  
  
Organization:  
The trainee's answer lacks a clear structure or logical flow. The main issues and recommendations are presented without any clear headings or subheadings, making it difficult for the reader to follow the trainee's argument. It would be beneficial to organize the information into separate sections or paragraphs to improve readability.  
  
Style:  
The trainee's writing style is generally clear and concise, but there are some areas where improvement is needed. The trainee uses abbreviations without providing any explanation or clarification, which may confuse the reader. Additionally, the trainee could benefit from providing more specific examples or evidence to support their recommendations and arguments.  
  
Overall, the trainee's answer demonstrates some understanding of the main issues and recommendations for the animal welfare legislative proposal. However, improvements are needed in terms of clarity, organization, and style to enhance the overall effectiveness of the answer.  
  
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.  
  
Based on the provided sample solution, the trainee's answer could be improved in several areas. Firstly, the trainee should provide more specific details about each policy measure and its impact on animal welfare. This would enhance the clarity of the answer and provide a more comprehensive understanding of the main issues.  
  
Secondly, the trainee should consider organizing the information into separate sections or paragraphs with clear headings or subheadings. This would improve the overall structure and logical flow of the answer, making it easier for the reader to follow the trainee's argument.  
  
Lastly, the trainee should provide more specific examples or evidence to support their recommendations and arguments. This would strengthen the trainee's position and provide a more persuasive case for their proposed course of action.  
  
In conclusion, while the trainee's answer demonstrates some understanding of the main issues and recommendations for the animal welfare legislative proposal, there are areas that could be improved in terms of clarity, organization, and style. By addressing these areas, the trainee could enhance the overall effectiveness of their answer.

# Predicted Tips/Errors

TIPS/SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:  
- Be more concise and organize your points in a clear manner.  
- Clearly state the main issues and remaining problems related to the animal welfare legislative proposal.  
- Provide specific recommendations and actions to address the issues mentioned.  
- Use bullet points or subheadings to make your response more structured and easier to read.  
- Avoid using abbreviations without providing their full meaning or explanation.  
  
SPELLING/GRAMMAR ERRORS:  
- Please proofread your response for spelling and grammar errors.