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## TITLE DRAFT – NON OFFICIAL PAPER

## ANIMALS IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION

**STAKEHOLDER** *defining the problem*

Union of European veterinary practitioners  
(UEVP)

## CONTEXT (SUMMARY DESCRIPTION)

*Keep short and in simple language but ensure that it provides enough information to get an overview of what the context is .*

According to Directive 90/425/CEE, live animals subject to trade within the European community must be identified in accordance with the requirements of the Community rules, and, on the other hand, be registered in such a way that their origin can be traced. Regulation 998/2003/CE established a European uniform system for identification of pets. From 23 May 2011, identification by microchips will be the only system accepted all over the European Union.

These provisions are justified by:

- The need to prevent the spread of animal diseases into countries where they do not exist and to contain outbreaks where they occur
- The possibility to avoid a great number of preventive euthanasia in critical sanitary situation
- The possibility to offer lost and found services to pet owners and enable them to travel more easily throughout Europe
- The need to fight against illegal trade of pets and non conventional animal

However, conditions to ensure a full workability of the legislative provisions and thus meet these important goals, are not gathered.

### Members:

Austria  
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Ireland  
Italy  
Latvia  
Luxemburg  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
United Kingdom

## PROBLEM DEFINITION

*In defining the problem, do not forget to consider, if relevant, subsidiarity.*

**Problems caused by electronic identification of animals**

FECAVA  
FEEVA

Rue Defacqz, 1  
1000 Brussels  
BELGIUM

When trying to identify an animal, situations may occur when it is difficult or impossible to trace its origin:

- The microchip number includes a country code, but there are several databases in that country (7 in Spain for instance). As a consequence, most shelters will not get in touch with all of them
- The microchip number is a manufacturer one with no country code. The number of potential databases may be too large to call the manufacturers anyway

In any case, the fact that there is no European database collecting all the identification number is an issue, especially in case of cross borders movement of animals.

### **Problems caused by lack of registration / problems due to electronic identification**

As regards pets, in case of animal disease breakout, containment is needed, including mandatory vaccinations and restriction of pet wandering. Wandering pets will be seized and authorities need to identify their origin and get in touch with pet owners. Given the difficulties encountered, tracing pets origin might be impossible. In some Member States, there are some endemic situations of rabies. In parallel, there is a growing flow of circulation of citizens from those countries, travelling by car with their pets, crossing borders without control. These pets, potentially infected, may escape during their trip. Moreover, a lot of “old Member States” citizens travel to “new Member States” to buy a cheaper pet. So far, they just need an identification. However, this identification is useless if it does not come with a European system to register this identification.

### **HOW does the problem affect the OBJECTIVES of the EU Animal Health Strategy ?**

Pillar 3 of the EU Animal Health Strategy is partly dedicated to animals identification and tracing.

However, the actions envisaged in the Communication do not foresee any solutions to the problems mentioned before, especially as regards the need to implement a European code for electronic identification in order to enable an actual reading throughout the EU.

Moreover, the strategy does not foresee:

- A mandatory identification system **for all animals**
- A mandatory registration system **for all animals**

The scope and the combination of these two systems is the only way to actually reach the objectives set out in the strategy. In addition, if interoperability of both systems is not ensured, it might jeopardize the whole scheme.