



Which environmental simplification could enable farm investment for a modernised, sustainable, and competitive agricultural sector?

Examples of barriers and permits refusals in pigmeat sector - Poland

European Committee of the Regions

Brussels 24th June 2026

Construction permitting – examples from Poland

Farmers Paweł and Jaroslaw Kaszkowiak decided to build a new pig barn in 2014. They wanted to **expand the operation from 50 to 150 sows**.

The mayor and the residents have been successfully preventing them from doing so, even though the farmers have met all the requirements and are operating in accordance with the law.



Foto: Tomasz Ślęzak, Tygodnik Poradnik Rolniczy

Although the **Supreme Administrative Court** issued a positive ruling regarding the environmental decision in 2018, until today no decision has yet been issued.

The farmer filed a **complaint regarding the excessive length of the proceedings** in early September 2021.

To this day, the municipal office has not issued a decision on zoning conditions. It is consistently dragging out the case.

The farmer has sued the municipal office for 280 m. Euro (difference between the costs of building a pig barn in 2014 and the current costs).

Construction permitting – examples from Poland

Szymon Kluka is a farmer and the owner of a small pig farm in the village of Grodzisko near Łódź.

His new neighbors were bothered by the odors from the farm and the noise from farm machinery, so they sued him.

In 2023, the District Court in Łódź ordered him to pay 120.000 PLN (app. 28.000 Euro) as compensation and, in addition, imposed restrictions on his normal farming activities, even though the farm complied with all applicable regulations.

The Court of Appeals upheld this ruling in 2024, and the Supreme Court rejected the farmer's cassation appeal last year.



Foto: Grzegorz Tomczyk, farmer.pl

The farmer is completely discouraged from planning any improvements or modernisation of the farm.

Construction permitting – examples from Poland

Goodvalley investment in Gniewno

Expansion of a pig farm – from 2000 sows in full cycle to 6000 sows with piglets only.

Start of administrative procedure: 2024.

Status: still pending, very slow and protracted, although EIA has been approved.



The investment will be probably paralyzed by bureaucratic proceedings for a few years?

Construction permitting – examples from Poland

Goodvalley – disinfecting gate in Mięto pig farm (2025)

Generally, installations of this type should be constructed on the basis of a notification to the local administration.

In Miętno case, the county administrator (Starosta) required a building permit.

After an appeal, the County Office accepted the notification. **Delay and biosecurity risk: 3 months**

This example illustrates how ambiguously various regional authorities in Poland interpret the same regulation.

BIOSECURITY !



Case – one of the leading Polish integrators in pig production

Cooperation program with family farmers – construction of finisher farms under **2000 pig places** (no IPCC required)

All new projects have to meet stringent technological and environmental criteria, i.e. BAT



The farms are designed with **enhanced animal welfare standard: 0,80 m²/pig** – going beyond the applicable regulations. 

In public consultations this is regarded as an attempt to omit the IPCC directive – the NGOs claim that the farm has a potential for **keeping 2400 growing pigs**.

But numbers of pigs are currently controlled by local vets and by **Animal Registration and Identification System!**

Consequence: 1 case in court, 2 cases in Local Government Appeals Board (SKO), several projects delayed.

Stricter regional rules („gold plating”)

Polish examples:

1. Since 2004, in Poland there is a unique legal requirement to utilize 70% of manure on owned or leased land!

The regulation is directly **cunterproductive in terms of sustainabilty and reduction of GHG** as it forces farmers to transport slurry to **remote fields**.

2. Option to require an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) **for projects in the range of 40–210 livestock units** – often abused by the local authorities

3. The opinions of the bodies consulted on the EIA Report are not binding for the issuance of a positive Environmental Decision by the local authority

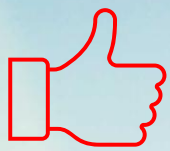
New General Local Development Plans in Poland

The mandatory requirement for zoning decisions to comply with the General Local Development Plans will take effect on **August 31, 2026**.

Due to potential odor nuisance and ammonia emissions, animal husbandry is automatically excluded from most zones.

Even environmental improvements like biogas plants will not be possible.





Polish legislative initiative – background

The modern countryside is multifunctional but its **primary function remains food production** – which is crucial to the country's food security.

At the same time, rural areas in Poland are undergoing rapid change – the number of farms and **people working in agriculture is falling (8%)**, whilst the number of **residents living in rural areas is rising (40%)**.

For example, in **2020 there were 582,100** livestock-keeping farms in operation, which is **36.9 % fewer than in 2010**.

Agricultural activity is associated with certain traditional factors which may cause permanent or temporary nuisances to neighbours. An increasing number of people living in rural areas have no professional or family ties to farming.

There is growing pressure to reduce noise levels on public holidays and during the evening and night-time hours, as well as odours arising from agricultural production, particularly livestock farming.

Local conflicts are also emerging, for example where land designated for non-agricultural purposes (most commonly for housing development) borders on land designated for agricultural production.

Polish legislative initiative (under public consultation)

Act amending certain Acts to protect the agricultural production functions of rural areas

The draft bill proposes the following legislative measures:

- 1) **an amendment to the Act of 23 April 1964 – the Civil Code** – specifying that **agricultural activities fall within the scope of normal use of property and, as a general rule, should not be regarded as causing undue nuisance to neighbours**. Exceptions would be made in situations where, in a specific case, it has been established that the activity is being carried out contrary to the principles of sound agricultural management or the provisions of the law;
- 2) **an amendment to the Act of 20 May 1971 – the Code of Misdemeanours**, which will **allow for the exclusion of criminal liability for disturbing the peace or night-time rest as a result of agricultural activities, e.g. through noise generated by agricultural machinery or animals**;

Polish legislative initiative (under public consultation)

Act amending certain Acts to protect the agricultural production functions of rural areas

3) an amendment to the Act of 11 April 2003 on the development of the agricultural system, which, as a result of the introduction of a provision stipulating that a notarial deed concerning the purchase of property outside the administrative boundaries of a town must include a declaration by the purchaser of such property that they are aware of possible disruptions to the use of that property caused by agricultural activities carried out on neighbouring properties, will raise awareness amongst purchasers of property situated outside the administrative boundaries of a town regarding the potential inconveniences associated with emissions arising from agricultural activities; as a result, at the very moment of purchasing the property.

Buyers will receive full and transparent information about the possible consequences of the transaction – which, in turn, may prevent many unnecessary and costly disputes for them.

What do farmers expect?

(from Parliamentary Group for the Protection and Development of Polish Agricultural Production – June 2026)

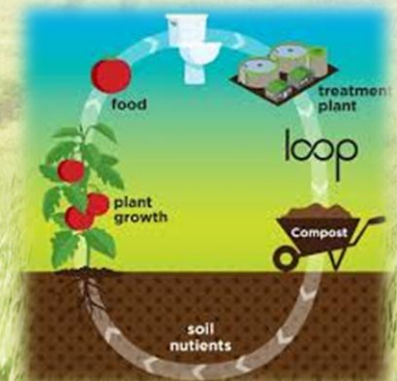
- 1. shortening the time taken to issue environmental decisions**
- 2. reducing protracted proceedings (excessive length)**
- 3. simplifying administrative procedures**
- 4. stable and predictable legislation**
- 5. effective protection of agricultural land against uncontrolled development**
- 6. clear rules on the siting of agricultural investments.**

CONCLUSIONS

1. Regulations securing protection of the agricultural production functions of rural areas is the first necessary and fundamental step.
2. The next step ought to be: regulations facilitating the construction of new livestock buildings, the expansion of existing ones, and the development of farms and infrastructure (fx biogas plants).
3. Overimplemetation (gold plating) should be avoided.
4. Better ex ante cumulative impact analysis of implementation of new regulations.
5. Remember: PROFITABILITY is an integral part SUSTAINABILITY
6. Education and building public awarness

POOP IS PART OF THE LOOP!

Livestock farming is part of the environmental solution,
not the problem





**POLSKA
FEDERACJA
ROLNA**

GOODVALLEY

Since  1994

Home of Quality

**Thank you for your attention,
Grzegorz Brodziak**

**President of the Board Goodvalley Agro S.A.
President – Polish Agricultural Federation
Vice President Polpig – Association of Pig Producers**

grzegorz.brodziak@goodvalley.com

