

Brussels, 4 February 2010

EU Animal Welfare Action Plan essential for sustainable future

Eurogroup for Animals today highlighted the fact that good animal welfare will undoubtedly benefit all of our society and meet the challenges of sustainability during a seminar organised by the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) at the European Parliament.

Repeating its call for the European Commission to come forward with a second EU Animal Welfare Action Plan Eurogroup welcomed the fact that animal welfare is now enshrined in the heart of the Lisbon Treaty, in Article 13 which gives it the same importance as other policy areas such as environmental protection and consumer protection.

Sonja Van Tichelen, Director of Eurogroup for Animals, speaking at the seminar said: *“A new Action Plan is essential and it must consider a wide mix of policy tools to ensure animal welfare in Europe continually improves. It must have as one of its main pillars a clear enforcement strategy and there must also be consistency with other policy areas, including agriculture, environment, research and trade.”*

“A whole host of non-legislative instruments such as information to consumers, training and advice on usage of best practices must be developed as accompanying measures. This is too important to get wrong and The Commission must set up an Animal Welfare Centre to co-ordinate and manage this at EU level,” she concluded.

Eurogroup for Animals will speak alongside members of the European Parliament, European Commission and leading bodies from Europe’s agriculture and animal welfare sectors at the seminar and welcomes the opportunity to take part in this open debate.

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Notes:

- Eurogroup for Animals represents animal welfare organisations in all EU Member States. Since its launch in 1980, the organisation has succeeded in encouraging the EU to adopt higher legal standards for animal protection. Eurogroup represents public opinion through its membership organisations across the Union, and has both the scientific and technical expertise to provide authoritative advice on issues relating to animal welfare. For more information, visit www.eurogroupforanimals.org.