

Brussels, 16 March 2007

Eurogroup for Animals discusses animal welfare challenges with Commissioner Kyprianou

Yesterday, Eurogroup for Animals met with the Commissioner for Health Markos Kyprianou to review recent animal welfare achievements and discuss current and future challenges. Eurogroup expressed its satisfaction about the progresses achieved in the field of animal welfare during Mr. Kyprianou's first two years in office. Eurogroup reasserted in particular the decisive step forward that the Community Action Plan on the Protection and Welfare of Animals represents in term of opportunities for further animal welfare developments in the framework of the EU.

With respect to broilers ("meat chickens"), one of the most important issue currently being discussed, Commissioner Kyprianou hoped for a favourable outcome of the new EU legislation. He also expressed a great interest in the idea of using consumer information as a way to promote animal welfare-friendly products on the market.

Commissioner Kyprianou also stressed the opportunities animal welfare constitutes for producers: *"Surveys have shown that consumers are strongly committed to animal welfare improvements and are willing to pay for them. So animal welfare offers industry an opportunity to restore consumer confidence in the food chain and capitalise on the marketing advantages it offers. Our animal welfare standards need to be promoted as an asset and a golden opportunity, not an economic burden."*

Eurogroup for Animals and its Member Organisations repeated their commitment to cooperate with the Commission in promoting high animal welfare to the general public, politicians, and to the different actors of the food chain, from farmers to retailers.

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