

Brussels, 12 October 2006

## Eurogroup delighted about overwhelming EP support for the Animal Welfare Action Plan

Today, Members of the European Parliament overwhelmingly voted for “more animal protection in the EU “. With a large majority, they adopted the written report by MEP Jeggle on the Action plan on the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2006-2010. Herewith, the MEPs approved the first ever Community strategic plan on animal protection outlining future activities, measures and tools for the forthcoming years in order to promote the protection of animals. This is a historic report as for the first time animal protection is also referred as “*an important Community goal and a permanent obligation of the EU*”. Furthermore, this acknowledges a key role for animal welfare in future European Policies.

The European Parliament report is highlighting the importance of certain areas which should be addressed as priorities in the Commission’s Action plan. In particular the Community should act more in the following areas:

- Enforcement and strengthening of the legislation for the transport of farm animals
- Protecting domestic and wild animals as well as animals used in circuses
- Taking animal welfare into consideration in trade policy, sustainable development and wildlife trade
- Promotion of animal welfare in the supply chain to enable better information for consumers
- An urgent review of the Directive from 1986 and the application of the new rules, also to basic research and research for teaching purposes, for all animals used in testing
- To encourage importers of animal products to demand their suppliers to comply at least with the EU legal minimum standards
- Banning the import of exotic birds into the EU on ethical, animal health and welfare grounds

Sonja Van Tichelen, Director of Eurogroup considers the European Parliament vote as a crucial step forward for the Community to start the implementation of the Action plan.

“We are delighted that the rapporteur has managed to bring all EU political groups firmly behind the objective of improving animal protection in the EU. The European Parliament has recognised that this issue is of great concern to millions of EU citizens and to many consumers who demand ethically acceptable products. We will be working with EU institutions to translate this document into tangible improvements for animals.”

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