

Brussels, 19 June 2009

### Frank Dales elected new president of Eurogroup For Animals



Frank Dales, Managing Director of the Dutch animal welfare organisation *Dierenbescherming*, has been elected as the new President of the European network for animal welfare, Eurogroup for Animals. Mr Dales was elected by the representatives of Eurogroup for Animals' 42 member organisations at their Annual General Meeting in Brussels on Thursday.

Mr Dales (52) has been head of the *Dierenbescherming* for two years. He entered the world of animal welfare after pursuing a political career. The *Dierenbescherming* is the Netherlands' largest animal protection organisation and has been a member of Eurogroup since the latter's creation in 1980. Just last week, the organisation was voted the most influential organisation in the Dutch food chain industry. Eurogroup member organisations unanimously voted to elect him Eurogroup president.

Speaking about his appointment as president, Mr Dales said that he is very happy to be appointed president and that he looks forward to the start of the new European Parliament to improve the plight of animals. He intends to work closely with the Eurogroup staff to carry out the objectives of Eurogroup's strategic plan and the strengthening of the European network. "I aim to place animal transport and the revision of the EU's animal experimentation Directive high on the agenda in the next coming months", he said, "for these are good examples of issues that can only be solved on the EU stage. MEPs may expect to be approached from all corners by Eurogroup: by the Eurogroup staff for the provision of information and expertise and by Eurogroup's national and international members who speak for millions of animal welfare supporters across the globe."

Mr Dales succeeds Mike Baker, who successfully led the European network for three years, but stood down from his post as president following his recent appointment as the new Head of the *World Society for the Protection of Animals*, also a member organisation of Eurogroup for Animals.

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Notes:

- Eurogroup for Animals represents animal welfare organisations in nearly each of the EU member states. Since it was launched in 1980, the organisation has succeeded in encouraging the European Union to adopt higher legal standards of animal protection. For more information about Eurogroup and this topic, visit [www.eurogroupforanimals.org](http://www.eurogroupforanimals.org).