



CREATING
A BRIGHTER
FUTURE FOR
ANIMALS IN THE
EUROPEAN UNION

**EUROGROUP
FOR
ANIMALS**

A STRONG and united voice...

ABOUT EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS

Eurogroup encourages the European Union to adopt high standards on animal welfare. It also uses its scientific, legal and technical expertise to advise on animal welfare issues.

Eurogroup for Animals has been committed to improving the way animals are treated and kept throughout the European Union since its launch in 1980. As a federation of non-governmental organisations, it speaks for millions of Europeans who are concerned about animals.





CATALYST

for change...

WHAT EUROGROUP DOES

- We help to improve legislation for animals by providing advice on animal welfare to the European institutions - the Council of Ministers, the European Parliament and the European Commission
- We contribute to the development of animal welfare internationally through representation in international coalitions and institutions, and working together with international animal protection groups
- We stimulate European parliamentarians to launch initiatives on animals. In the European Parliament we facilitate the debate by running the secretariat of the all-party intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals
- We encourage retailers and producers to improve their standards for animal welfare by showing them the benefits and offering our expertise
- We monitor member states for compliance with animal welfare rules and file complaints when they ignore them
- We support animal welfare organisations across the EU by representing them and sharing useful information
- We form strategic alliances with a variety of stakeholders to move towards a sustainable world

A BETTER LIFE

for animals...

THANKS TO EUROGROUP

Battery cages which condemn millions of laying hens to lives of suffering will be banned in Europe from 2012.

Under this cruel system, hens are forced to live five to a cage – each bird has a floor space less than the area of an A4 page in which to live.

The EU no longer subsidises the export of cattle for slaughter to countries outside Europe.

Until December 2005 about 66,000 farm animals a year were forced to endure horrific road and sea journeys only to be brutally slaughtered on arrival.

Animals are now recognised in EU law as capable of feeling pain and suffering.

A 1997 annex to the Treaty of Amsterdam states that animals are “sentient beings”. As a result the EU and its member states must pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals.

Regulations on the transport of live animals have been introduced.

EU regulations now include: proper training to drivers responsible for transporting live animals; improved standards and better ventilation for vehicles. Eurogroup continues to campaign for maximum journey times for all animals.

Non-animal testing methods for safety testing of products are being promoted.

Eurogroup’s expertise and campaigning have contributed greatly to the acceptance in all EU institutions of the need to replace animal tests for cosmetics and those used in the safety testing of chemicals with non-animal alternative methods or strategies. The EU is now strongly committed to promote the development and use of non-animal tests.

Zoo animals are protected by European law.

European zoos now have to be licensed and inspected. Eurogroup continues to monitor how member states enforce the way zoo

animals are kept. Many zoos still keep animals in inadequate conditions.

The lives of millions of wild birds destined for the pet trade have been saved thanks to a ban on their import due to bird flu.

A report by the European Food Safety Authority agreed that the import of wild birds could lead to the spread of diseases harmful to both people and animals.

Retailers and the food industry are adopting higher standards for animal welfare.

For example, firms all over Europe are increasingly choosing to no longer stock or use battery eggs.





SPEAKING for Europe...

EUROPEANS WANT HIGH ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS

Europeans are increasingly convinced of the need to improve standards for animal welfare.

According to Eurobarometer surveys conducted by the European Commission:

- 80% of Europeans believe the needs of animals should be upheld no matter what the cost
- 74% of Europeans believe buying animal welfare friendly products could have a positive impact on the welfare/protection of farm animals
- 57% of Europeans would be willing to pay more for eggs sourced from an animal welfare friendly production system
- 43% of Europeans think about the welfare and protection of the animals when they purchase meat
- 62% of respondents said they would change their shopping habits in order to access more animal welfare friendly goods

TAKING the lead...

WE WORK TO PROTECT

- **Farm animals** by working with producers, retailers, consumers and governments
- **Wild animals** by campaigning for better lives for those kept in captivity and by working to eliminate the threats from humans they face in the wild and through trade
- **Companion animals** by limiting the negative effects of importing, keeping, or uncontrollably breeding pets
- **Animals used in research** by working with industry and governments to replace animal tests with alternative methods





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