



PRESS INFORMATION

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International conference calls for collaboration on animal welfare

An international conference has called for collaboration on animal welfare to meet the challenges of climate change, increasing food demand, and the need to remain competitive in a global marketplace. The Conference on Global Trade and Farm Animal Welfare took place in Brussels on 20 and 21 January, during which it was concluded that adopting higher welfare farming methods would bring benefits to the farmer, consumer, environment, and developed and developing countries alike. This could be facilitated by sharing best practice and assisting developing countries with their farming.

Adolfo Sansolini, trade policy advisor for RSPCA, Compassion in World Farming, Eurogroup for Animals and WSPA, commented: "Collaborating on animal welfare is a win-win situation for everyone involved. Problems such as the financial crisis and climate change will affect all of us, but sharing good practice can lead to the best ideas being quickly carried out across the globe."

The conference brought together more than 400 people from 55 countries: from farmers, retailers, politicians, academics, international institutions and animal welfare organisations to present positive experiences of inclusion of animal welfare in the trade environment. The event, which followed a successful forum held in Brussels last April, was organised by the Directorate-General for External Trade and the Directorate-General for Health and Consumers of the European Commission, together with Eurogroup for Animals, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Compassion in World Farming, and World Society for the Protection of Animals.

A roadmap for the implementation of the points discussed at the conference will be circulated in the coming days.

For more information visit
www.animalwelfareandtrade.com

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Notes:

- The European Union explicitly states in its Community Action Plan on the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2006-2010 that the Commission wants to promote high animal welfare standards in the EU and at the international level. This involves co-operating with developing countries on creating production systems with higher standards for animal welfare, which would help them to export to the union.