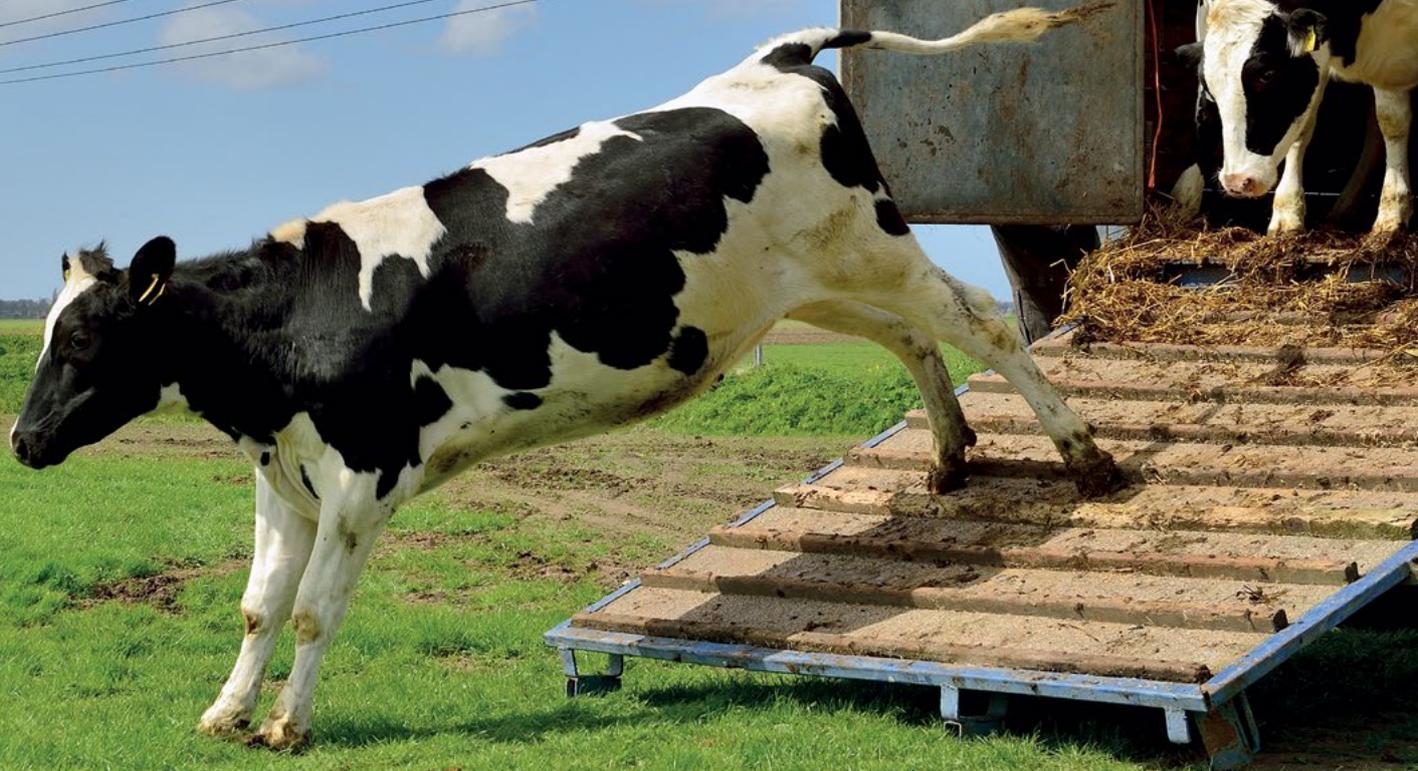


CAMPAIGN

#StopTheTrucks

Campaign to end long distance transportation of live animals



NEW EUROBAROMETER

Overwhelming public support for animal welfare

INTERVIEW

inside the Dutch EU Presidency

MEMBERSHIP

Zoom on our diversity

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STOP THE TRUCKS

Campaign to end long distance transportation of live animals



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CHRISTIANNE BRUSCHKE

Chief Veterinary Officer of the Netherlands, actively involved in Animal Welfare during the Dutch Presidency of the EU Council



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EUROBAROMETER

Eurogroup for Animals and broader society, aligned through an overwhelmingly positive Animal Welfare Eurobarometer, confirm their resilience and determination to obtain change for animals.



Eurogroup for Animals Magazine is the quarterly magazine of Eurogroup For Animals

Editor in Chief: Elise Fleury
Design: BakOS DESIGN

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the second issue of Eurogroup for Animals' Magazine.

I would first like to thank all of you for your positive feedback on our new Magazine. We indeed received a lot of encouraging messages, which motivated my team to bundle their stories and successes in this second edition.

This issue aims to follow the EU agenda and translates recent EU developments, challenges and opportunities on animal welfare in stories, interviews and news items that are easy to read and informative. This first quarter of the year certainly did not come short of news.

We are now mid-way in what we know is a very committed Dutch EU Presidency and are delighted to witness the release of some long-awaited crucial reports, such as an overwhelmingly positive Eurobarometer survey on animal welfare.

Never before have Europeans expressed such a strong support for animal welfare, which provides us with new motivation, inspiration and drive to advocate for change, because animals matter.

This is very much needed as progress on new legislation has stagnated and the European Commission has still not decided whether it will formulate a new animal welfare strategy 2016-2020. We nevertheless need this framework to demonstrate the much needed ambition and ensure continued improvements for the welfare of animals across Europe. This is why, in good company of four supportive Ministers, many Members of the European Parliament and other key decision makers, I shared our vision for such a strategy during a Eurogroup for Animals seminar

mid-March. The seminar was an important moment to show Europe that we will continue our mission to put animal welfare back at the core of the EU agenda and that critical allies in the Member States and European Parliament stand side by side to make it happen.

Before I let you read through the magazine, let me point to another very important moment of this first quarter: the launch of our flagship campaign on transport *Stop The Trucks*. Ending long distance live animal transports is a fundamental fight of our animal advocacy movement. It was the very first topic on which one million signatures was presented to the European Commission asking for action through a European Citizen Initiative as a result of the famous *8 hours campaign*. We are determined to mobilize once more the critical mass needed to end long distance live animal transport and fundamentally improve the welfare of transported animals by supporting the initiative undertaken by several European ministers to change the dysfunctional existing legislation. I'm proud to say that three weeks after the launch, 22 of our members already rolled out *Stop the Trucks* nationally, calling on their Ministers to push for a reform of the legislation and that several national governments have already indicated their support.

The groundswell of support from you and other Europeans for the animal welfare cause is extremely motivating for the Eurogroup team and myself even if the political landscape remains challenging. I'm looking forward to continuing this important journey together in giving the animals the respect and protection they deserve.



“ Concern for the welfare of animals is not just important to us. Proofs are there to show that it is a very important common value for EU citizens.”

Reineke Hameleers
Director

**EUROGROUP
FOR ANIMALS**



CAMPAIGN

#StopTheTrucks

TAKE ACTION >

WWW.STOPHETRUCKS.EU > #STOPHETRUCKS

EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS 2016 FLAGSHIP CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIVE ANIMAL TRANSPORTATION

Transport of live animals, especially over long distances, has been a major concern for our movement and society at large during the past decades. In fact, live animal transportation was even one of the causes for founding Eurogroup for Animals. Sadly however, the number of animals transported continues to rise across the EU.

The Transport Regulation (1/2005) came into force in 2007 with the intention to regulate the transportation of live animals and to protect their welfare. However, 10 years later it has not delivered the desired effect – far from. The Regulation as it stands today leaves too much room for interpretation which makes it difficult both to implement it consistently and enforce it.

Very young animals, sometimes even unweaned, as well as very old animals with broken and brittle bones, weakened by years of confinement for production, are forced on very long journeys, where they stand cramped and stressed for hours and days, in crowded trucks, unfed, unrested.

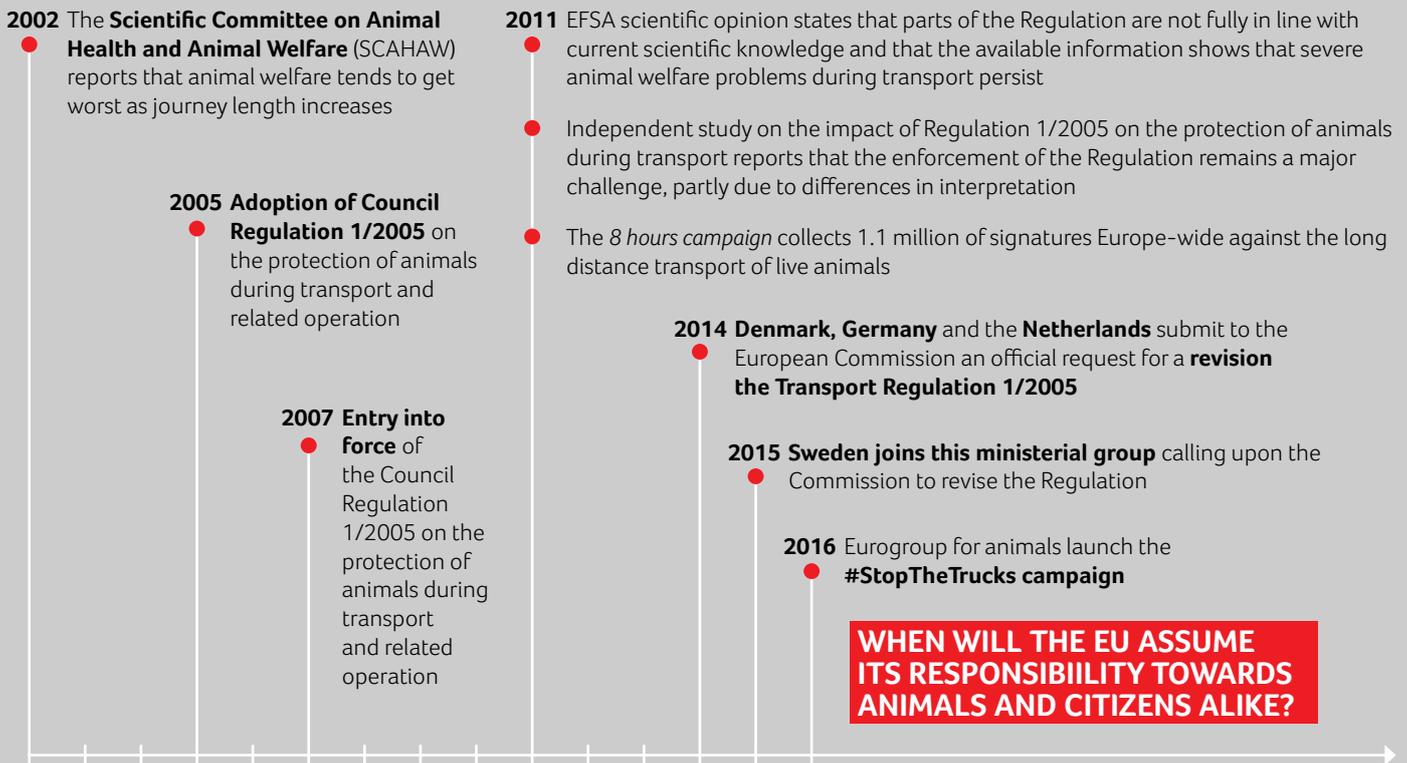
Scientific data again and again demonstrate that transportation over long distances exposes animals to severe exhaustion, dehydration, injuries, and even death. Whilst this is surely reason enough to question the current

set-up, other risks present such as those relating to disease outbreaks and the environment are equally resulting from the long distance transportation of live animals.

“ Each year at least 1 billion poultry and 37 million live cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and equines are transported within the EU and to Third Countries.”

The campaign *StopTheTrucks* aims to put the subject of live transports back on the agenda and to pick up where the famous *8 hours campaign* in 2012 ended. 1,1 million people Europe-wide then signed the campaign's petition against the long distance transport of live animals. However, in the absence of the right political window of opportunity, the campaign unfortunately did not lead to the desired legislative revision.

Based on the massive number of animals and the severe suffering that the animals are exposed to, Eurogroup for Animals decided to launch a pan-European campaign calling for a revision of the Transport Regulation (2005/1). The campaign responds to a new political window of opportunity which has arisen in 2014 with the first concerted official request for revision of the Transport Regulation put forward by Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark and subsequently supported by Sweden .



Convinced by compelling investigations shared under the umbrella of this campaign, citizens are invited to act and stop the trucks by writing to their national Agricultural Ministers with the request to back a revision of the Transport Regulation (1/2005). Government administrations in supportive Member States (Germany, The Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden) are asked to keep up the pressure for revision of the legislation but also to nationally assess the broader – not just economic – societal impact of long distance live animal transportation. These assessments are intended to demonstrate the true cost of live transportation not only in terms of animal health and welfare, but also in terms of environment, biosecurity and rural development.

The EU is building a strong case for the circular economy, an economy where growth and sustainability goes hand in hand. Knowing that one truck of carcasses replaces 4 trucks of live animals transported over a long distance in terms of broader societal impact, we are convinced long distance live animal transport has no place in such an economy.

Eurogroup for Animals and its members want to replace the transportation of live animals with transportation of carcasses of meat. Only when transportation is unavoidable, those live animals **fit for transport** should only be transported according to species specific journey times. We fully realize that these are long term goals and that a first step towards a Europe that cares for animals during transport, comes with the revision of the Transport

Regulation (1/2005), hence the political focus of our campaign.

Every signature counts. We need your help too to make things happen, so please take a couple of minutes to write to your relevant minister through our campaign website www.stopthetrucks.eu and feel free to tweet about the topic by using the hashtag #StopTheTrucks.

German S&D MEP Maria Noichl, chair person of the MEP working group on live animal transportation says:

“ Over the years it has become very clear that the Transport Regulation 1/2005 has not managed to properly secure the health and welfare of animals during transport. When both experience on the ground and several independent scientific bodies point towards the very severe effects of long distance live animal transportation, we as responsible legislators can only be in favor of a revision of the current Transport Regulation 1/2005. I was grateful when the German, Dutch and Danish governments launched their request for revision of the Regulation to the Commission, and I look forward to working alongside these and more governments in the future.”



EU
2016

Minister van Dam joined Eurogroup for Animals' Director Reineke Hameleers on the picture at the occasion of the seminar we organised in the European Parliament on 15 March 2016. This high level event was livestreamed and gave the floor to several Ministers, Commissioners, MEPs and other EU stakeholders, to discuss the future of animal welfare.

Several initiatives have emerged recently, driven by ambitious Ministers from different Member States and setting the blueprint for a possible 2016-2020 Animal Welfare Strategy for the EU. This event was the opportunity sought by many to bring decision-makers together from across the EU institutions and to motivate the European Commission to deliver this long awaited strategy.

In his speech Minister van Dam shared his support towards a new EU Animal Welfare Strategy for 2016-2020.

Mrs Christianne Brusckhe works in the administration of the Minister for Agriculture of the Netherlands.

INTERVIEW

CHRISTIANNE BRUSCHKE

CHRISTIANNE BRUSCHKE, CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER OF THE NETHERLANDS, IS PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE ON ANIMAL WELFARE DURING THE DUTCH PRESIDENCY OF THE EU COUNCIL. WE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO COLLECT HER VIEWS ON HER WORK DURING THIS TERM.

As the Chief Veterinary Officer of the Netherlands you play an important role on our issues during this Dutch Presidency of the EU Council. What is your agenda for Animal Welfare improvements during the Dutch Presidency? Have you already booked noticeable achievements in this field since taking up the Presidency in January?

The Netherlands has put a position paper of Denmark, Germany, Sweden and Netherlands on the establishment of an EU Platform for Animal Welfare on the agenda of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 15 February. The suggestion for such a platform received broad support from the Member States, but also from stakeholder organisations. I was happy to see that the stakeholder organisations voiced their support during a meeting with EU member states and stakeholder organisations organised by the European Commission in follow up of the council discussions in February.

We are now waiting for the European Commission to present their plans on such a platform.

You have given a remarkable speech during the first meeting of the European Parliament Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals in January 2016. Your speech emphasised the persisting challenges concerning the transport of live animals. Eurogroup for Animals and its members will be launching their 2016 flagship campaign on transport in the coming days called *StopTheTrucks*. Why do you feel now is the right time to get vocal about this subject?

The Netherlands has suggested to the European Commission to improve and update the EU Transport Regulation on the basis of the latest scientific insights, technological innovations and socioeconomic trends. Moreover, the Commission was requested to make a socioeconomic impact analysis on capping transport time



for slaughter animals to 8 hours. I think these requests to the Commission are timely, as the Commission should prepare a new strategy document for animal welfare for the years 2016-2020.

How do you experience the dialogue with umbrella organisations such as Eurogroup for Animals in your work? Why do you think engaging with us is important?

I am convinced that an organisation like Eurogroup for Animals possesses valuable information about and insights in animal welfare problems across a broad range of animals. They are also ideally placed to reflect the opinion of civil society on these problems and share ideas for improvement.

Governments and umbrella organisations play different roles but often have overlapping goals when it comes to improvement of animal welfare.

We know the Dutch government has high ambitions for animal welfare in Europe. From your experience, do you feel holding the EU Council Presidency offers opportunities to accelerate change for animal welfare?

Holding the presidency both has its advantages and limitations. The presidency can schedule items for meetings in the Council and Council working groups. However, being an honest broker, we will of course seek cooperation and coordination with all Member States and the European Commission.

“ Organisations like Eurogroup for Animals are ideally placed to reflect the opinion of civil society on animal welfare problems and share ideas for improvement.”

Christianne Bruschke,
Chief Veterinary Officer of the Netherlands

IN EUROPE

#Act4LabAnimals

SWISS GOVERNMENT TO BAN ANIMAL-TESTED COSMETICS



It was announced in February that the Swiss government plans to ban the use of animals for testing with cosmetics. This would bring them in line with the EU rules. Green Party parliamentarian, Maya Graf, previously introduced a motion in Parliament calling on the government to take legal action against animal-tested cosmetics, cleaning and household products on the Swiss market. Schweizer Tierschutz have been working closely with Maya Graf and supported the motion. The motion had also included household products, however, the Federal Council rejected any action in this area.

PESTICIDES – ANIMAL TESTING – ACTIONS REQUIRED IN 2016

In March 2016, the European Crop Protection Association (ECPA) held a well-attended 2 day Regulatory conference in Brussels to address the major legislative challenges for the crop protection industry including Endocrine Disruptors and the evolving science of testing.



A standout issue for Eurogroup is that industry has formed a team of experts on creating a new vision for agro-chemical human health assessment without the use of animals. They have established a conceptual framework which they are rolling out through a road map to assess chemicals for their specific exposure and better understand how they are toxic to humans without using animals.

#Act4FarmAnimals

FONDATION BRIGITTE BARDOT (FRANCE) AND GAIA (BELGIUM) PROTEST IN PARIS AGAINST THE FORCE-FEEDING OF DUCKS



A report from the University of Cambridge confirming the adverse effects of force-feeding of ducks for the production of foie gras was presented on 22 January at the

National Assembly in Paris. This reports follows a recent market research report from a leading french national survey institute, demonstrating a nation-wide support for the phasing out of force-feeding. Prior to the event, MP Laurence Abeille (French Green party) had already registered a new legislative proposal to phase out force-feeding in France. The presence of actress and animal rights activist Pamela Anderson was the occasion to raise awareness about the plight of force-fed ducks and once more urge french parliamentarians to back this legislative proposal. The event got nationwide coverage in the French media.

LATEST INVESTIGATION OF L214 (FRANCE) SHOWS MAJOR VIOLATIONS OF EU AND FRENCH LEGISLATION ON ANIMAL WELFARE AT SLAUGHTER



In their latest undercover investigation L214 documented systematic acts of cruelty and several major violations of EU and French animal welfare law in the organic abattoir of Mauléon-Licharre (Pyrénées-Atlantiques), also operating under the “Label Rouge” standards. The images show young lambs and goat kids incorrectly stunned, thrown around with violence, and finally shackled fully conscious. Cattle were also seen being shackled and bled while still conscious. In the wake of this scandal, which follows other recent ones, the French Agricultural Minister Stéphane Le Foll announced inspections in all French slaughterhouses.

#Act4FarmAnimals

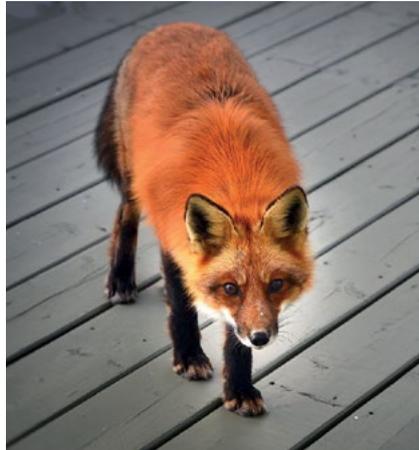
NETHERLANDS TO BAN EXPORT OF KOSHER AND HALAL MEAT TO 'MINIMISE' NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON ANIMAL WELFARE



The Dutch government has announced plans to ban the export of kosher and halal meat in an effort to reduce the amount of animals killed with non-stun slaughter. Martijn van Dam, Minister for Agriculture, said that the new rules to be enforced as of January 2017, will ensure that meat from unstunned animals will only be available in religious communities and will no longer be exported. The Minister hopes that these new measures will reduce animal suffering.

#FurFreeEU

FUR ON CHILDREN'S WEAR FULL OF TOXICS



New research evidence shows fur trims on children's jackets contain harmful levels of toxic chemicals posing a serious health risk. Dutch Fur Free Alliance member Bont voor Dieren's last research tested children's wear of well known brands as Canada Goose, Versano, Woolrich, Nickelson and Airforce. All of the brands, that were tested by the German independent research laboratory Bremer Umweltinstitut, reveal high levels of formaldehyde and ethoxylates, which can cause allergies, cancer and hormonal imbalance.

#Act4AnimalsEU

EDUCAWEL STUDY CALLS FOR EUROPEAN GUIDANCE IN ANIMAL WELFARE EDUCATION

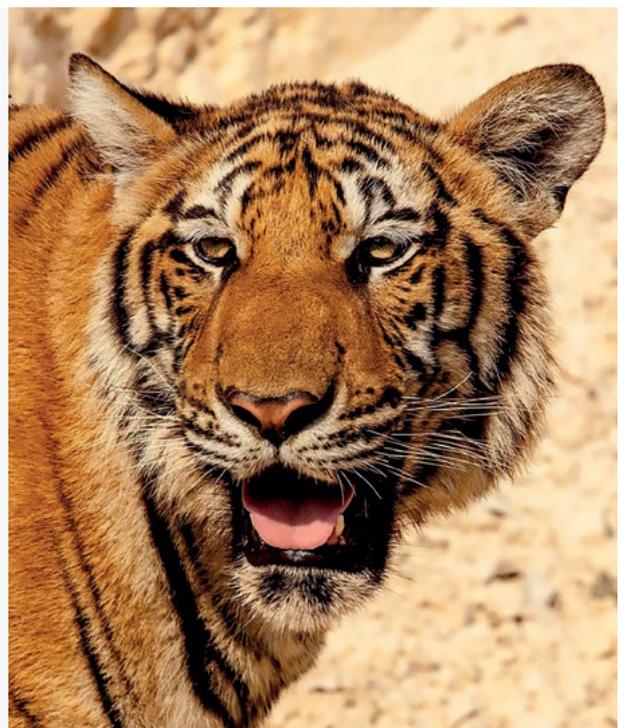


The European Commission finally published the results of the EDUCAWEL study on animal welfare education. The main objective of the study was to identify the level of understanding of animal welfare issues among citizens and professionals, to identify shortcomings and to look at ways to improve knowledge levels through education. EDUCAWEL suggests the creation of European guidelines on animal welfare education for professionals. The study also concluded that the level of knowledge among citizens is very limited despite the often laudable efforts of NGOs.

#Act4Wildlife

LAUNCH OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ACTION PLAN AGAINST WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

In February 2016, Eurogroup for Animals welcomed the launch of the European Union Action Plan Against Wildlife Trafficking, a crucial document. During the last years, Eurogroup for Animals has participated to the consultation process on the EU approach to wildlife trafficking, asking for the prompt publication of the Action Plan and submitting a list of priorities that should have been addressed by it. The EU Wildlife Action Plan 2016 - 2020 addresses wildlife trafficking within the EU and strengthens the EU's role in the fight against these illegal activities globally, through 32 measures boosting: prevention, enforcement and cooperation. The Action Plan will allow the EU to dedicate sufficient resources and political attention on an issue which affects many of the core principles of its external policy, as biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, peace and security.





GREAT RESULTS SHOW OVERWHELMING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR ANIMAL WELFARE. THAT SUPPORT ISN'T RESTRICTED TO A SMALL NUMBER OF MEMBER STATES OR ANY PARTICULAR CORNER OF EUROPE. INTEREST IN ANIMAL WELFARE IS STRONG THROUGHOUT THE EU. THIS PROVIDES US WITH A POWERFUL ADVOCACY TOOL, REINVIGORATING OUR CLAIMS FOR IMPROVING THE WELFARE OF ANIMALS.



JOINING FORCES

CITIZENS REQUESTING THE EU TO ACT FOR ANIMALS

Once more European citizens show they care about animals. Eurogroup for Animals and broader society, aligned through an overwhelmingly positive Animal Welfare Eurobarometer, confirm their resilience and determination to obtain change for animals.

LOOKING FOR AN ISSUE TO UNITE EUROPE? LOOK NO FURTHER THAN ANIMAL WELFARE

Citizens want an EU that acts for animals, more than it currently does. And they want that action now.

The special Eurobarometer on animal welfare shows beyond doubt that EU citizens care deeply about animals.

Support for animal welfare among Europeans is so high that it would make any MEP jealous.

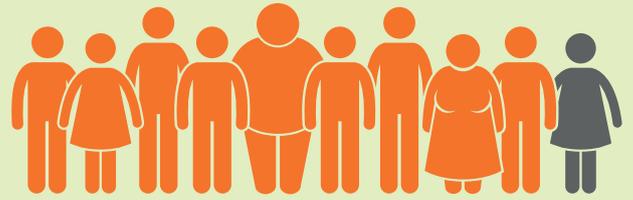
Overwhelming public support for animal welfare isn't restricted to a small number of Member States or any particular corner of Europe. Interest in animal welfare is strong throughout the EU.

For example, 99% of those polled in Sweden, Finland and Portugal think protecting the welfare of farm animals is important as do 86% in Croatia, Hungary and Poland.

This massive support for animal welfare reflects the hard work over many years of our 49 national and international member organisations in 29 countries. Eurogroup for Animals represents tens of millions of citizens working towards a Europe that cares for animals.

The Eurobarometer is a rallying cry for the European Commission to take civil society's views about animal welfare more seriously.

WHAT CITIZENS THINK



9 OUT OF 10 EUROPEAN CITIZENS BELIEVE THAT

Imported products should respect **EU animal welfare standards**

EU animal welfare standards **should be recognised globally**

The **EU should do more to promote** animal welfare awareness worldwide

94%

said **protecting the welfare of farm animals** is important

89%

believe there should be **EU legislation that requires people to care for animals** used for commercial purposes

82%

think **farm animals should be better protected** than they are now

74%

said **companion animals need greater protection**

68%

thinks some or even most decisions on animal welfare **legislation should be taken at EU level**

59%

of all European citizens are **willing to pay 5% more for animal-friendly products**



Half of the Europeans look for **labels to identify animal friendly produced products**

REALITY CHECK



Imports in animals and animal products

These products do not comply with European animal welfare standards and transparency on the origins of imported products is lacking.



83 000 000 pigs / year

Castrated without pain relief. Ban on routine tail docking and obligation to provide environmental enrichment widely disregarded.



1 billion poultry and 37 million mammals / year

Transported over long distances in horrible conditions. No maximum transport duration. Destination countries where animal welfare is not protected and slaughter conditions are extremely cruel.



Not protected under any EU law

Species like dairy cows, rabbits, ducks, geese and farmed fish. They suffer from welfare problems due to ongoing intensification of farming.

Misleading marketing labels

No objective, mandatory labelling mechanisms are in place other than the successful scheme for shell eggs. Consumers are simply unable to see the wood for the trees.

Legal and illegal trade in pets and exotic animals is booming

There are no proper legal mechanisms in place to safeguard their welfare and prevent suffering.

IT'S TIME FOR EUROPE TO ACT FOR ANIMALS

Of course, the EU is in the forefront of animal welfare on many issues. These accomplishments are significant. They're to be celebrated. But there's more to do for animals on the farm, in commercial practices and in our homes.

Dairy cattle, beef cattle, rabbits, ducks, geese and farmed fish aren't protected under EU law.

They suffer from welfare problems due to the continuing intensification of industrial farming.

The legal and illegal trade in pets and exotic animals is booming. There are no proper legal mechanisms to safeguard their welfare and prevent suffering.

There are no objective, mandatory labelling mechanisms for consumer products other than the successful scheme for shell eggs.

I could go on. But it's time to move on.

AND THE TIMING COULDN'T BE BETTER

The European project is under intense scrutiny. Its future is in the spotlight. Its foundations are being tested by a number of concurrent crises.

Rather than being seen as a peripheral issue, perhaps even as a luxury, animal welfare provides the Commission with a means to connect with individual citizens, and to demonstrate the true value of European solutions.

As Europe's federation of animal advocacy organisations, Eurogroup for Animals wholeheartedly welcomes the results of the special Eurobarometer on animal welfare.

The survey demonstrates beyond doubt that EU citizens care about animal welfare. It also reveals that citizens see a clear, added value for the role of the European institutions in furthering the welfare of animals.

If the European Commission wants to bring the EU closer to its citizens, and demonstrate its value as an international institution, start work now with animal welfare.

It's a vote winner!*

Reineke Hameleers, Director, Eurogroup for Animals

* This opinion piece was sent to leading EU media mid-March, shortly after the release of the Eurobarometer results

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

FOLLOW OUR WORK FOR ANIMAL WELFARE





680 EURO- PARLIAMENTARIANS CALL ON THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO 'PROTECT OUR PETS'

Joe MORAN, Programme Leader - Companion Animals

Euro-Parliamentarians have sent a strong signal for action to stop the illegal trade in dogs and cats. Over 90% of the Parliament indeed adopted a Resolution formally requesting the Commission to mandate the use of compatible systems of identification and registration for pets in each Member State.



Eurogroup for Animals' *Protect Our Pets* campaign with its over half a million emails sent to MEPs in six months, paved the way for the adoption of this Resolution aiming to definitively close the loophole that allows the illegal trade in dogs and cats to flourish.

In short, minimum requirements around the identification and registration of individual animals would mitigate many of the existing doubts around that most opaque part of the pet passport: a pet's given age. A common interface between national systems could also allow for the easy transfer, upon request, of basic data from one Member State to another, thus allowing for cross-border traceability.

Renate Sommer, a Christian Democrat Member of the European Parliament for the German State of North Rhine-Westphalia, who was responsible for instigating the Parliament's Resolution said: "*Many Member States already have systems for the identification and registration of pets. We are not seeking to reinvent the wheel here – we do not see the need for some sort of single EU level database. All we need is to have the same requirements, with compatible systems in each Member State.*"

The evidence is clear, as is the solution. As well as being our companions, pets do pose serious transmissible disease threats to animals and humans alike. The Commission needs to act now.

Eurogroup for Animals is currently working with Member States, using the momentum created by *Protect Our Pets*, to ensure that the Commission brings forth the necessary rules to stop the illegal trade as soon as possible.



BETTER FARM ANIMAL WELFARE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ANTIMI- CROBIAL RESISTANCE

Elena NALON, Programme leader - Farm animals

The excessive and/or inappropriate use of antimicrobials in veterinary medicine, especially livestock, is one of the main factors involved in the development of resistance in bacteria, fungi and parasites. High stocking densities, barren environments, poor hygiene, inadequate ventilation and lighting conditions, painful mutilations, early weaning, and breed selection for increasing productivity are major factors that contribute to making farmed animals more vulnerable to infections.



In these conditions, mass antibiotic treatments are necessary and are routinely given in feed and water to prevent, rather than cure, disease outbreaks. The alarm level is reaching a historic high as resistance to colistin, a life-saving antibiotic in human medicine, appeared in pigs and poultry in China, where colistin is used as a growth promoter as well as to prevent disease. Colistin is also used in Europe, primarily to prevent neonatal diarrhoea in piglets and calves.

An aggressive approach is required to curb antimicrobial resistance, which should include a complete rethinking of the unsustainable and inhumane livestock farming practices that led to the over- and misuse of antibiotics. Better animal welfare is a key component of this fight. Livestock housing needs to be adapted to the species-specific needs of the animals and animal management needs to be optimized.

In our view more can be done to both achieve higher welfare and reduce antimicrobial resistance. This includes more hygiene, more space, the availability of environmental enrichment, and the possibility to express normal behaviours but also later weaning which is proven to have a positive effect on the immune system of piglets. We would also recommend to re-introduce "traditional" breeds, more rustic and resistant to disease to replace the fragile highly productive and highly prolific ones that are currently preferred.

In sum, from our perspective, which is shared by Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), giving farm animals a "life worth living" is an integral part of the good husbandry practices and crucial to reduce antimicrobial resistance.



EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS' MEMBERS MOBILISED TO SAVE 200 000 ANIMALS FROM CHEMICAL TESTING

Kirsty REID, Programme leader - Animals in science

REACH, the EU legislation on the Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals, which was adopted in 2006, addresses the production and use of chemicals and their potential impact on both human health and the environment. Chemicals are required to be tested for their safety. One of the legislation's aims is to promote alternative methods. The law even makes it obligatory to avoid animal testing which shall be taken only as a last resort, and proposes to amend REACH where appropriate, to replace, reduce or refine animal testing as science progresses.

EU animal advocacy organisations work endlessly for support of these aims and obligations by providing expertise and advocating change needed. Years of campaigning have yielded some recent progress with the adoption of approaches where there are proven validated alternatives to animal testing. In 2015, the "Extended One Generation Reproductive Toxicity Study" introduced the possibility to reduce the number of animals used by more than half by having only one generation tested instead of two. Scientific evidence produced by this test indeed shows that there is no added value to pursue testing beyond one generation. Other examples were the adoption into legislation of non-animal methodologies testing for acute-toxicity, eye irritation and skin irritation.

For skin sensitization however, an animal test remains the required method. Skin sensitization is an allergic reaction to a particular irritant that results in the development of skin inflammation and itchiness. Unlike skin irritation, the skin becomes increasingly reactive to the substance as a result of subsequent exposures. Alternative approaches to animal testing for skin sensitization have been internationally validated but have, in the absence of political will, not been incorporated into the EU legislation yet. These animal tests are severe, causing much pain and distress, whereas the validated alternatives could spare 200 000 animals from suffering chemical testing.

The final decision on whether or not to change the REACH legislation and replace the currently required animal test for skin sensitization with the non-animal approach, will take place on 20 April during the next REACH Committee meeting. Naturally, we call for support of the non-animal tests as the preferred approach and have worked jointly with our members to urge Member State authorities to vote favourably. Follow us on twitter to remain informed of the outcome of the vote on #Act4LabAnimals!



ONGOING WORK TOWARDS THE ADOPTION OF A POSITIVE LIST

Ilaria DI SILVESTRE, Programme leader - Wildlife

The exotic pet trade is booming globally, yielding billions of euros annually. This trade however has many adverse collateral effects. Controlling and eradicating invasive alien species, treating zoonotic diseases, preventively culling thousands of farm animals containing zoonoses' proliferation and fighting against the illegal trade of wildlife are all corrective actions to address absent or inadequate laws and regulations to manage the exotic pet trade.



Eurogroup for Animals and AAP Animal Advocacy and Protection run the *Think Positive* campaign since 2013 to raise awareness on these problems and restrain the trade and keeping of exotic animals as pets.

We believe the best way to address this issue is to introduce a "Positive List" at national level. A Positive List is a concise list capturing the species that can be kept based on a scientific risk assessment. Whatever species is not on the list can simply not be traded or kept, offering hence protection for all exotic animals against the creative minds of unscrupulous pet traders. Such a list provides clarity to owners and enforcement agencies and creates less regulatory bureaucracy and costs for the government as it doesn't need regular updating or in any case much less than a negative list.

The strategic aim of the *Think Positive* campaign is to build up critical mass at national level so as to obtain national successes and then subsequently, call on the EU to harmonise.

Both Belgium and the Netherlands have already adopted a Positive List for mammals. Belgium was the first EU country to adopt such a list. Six years later, evidence clearly demonstrates that this strategy has been highly effective in controlling the number of animals illegally sold and kept in Belgium.

LOOKING BACK

ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE 90S

OVER THE COURSE OF 30 YEARS, EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN OBTAINING AND IMPROVING EU LEGISLATION IN THE AREA OF ANIMAL WELFARE. HERE ARE A FEW HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUCCESSES RESULTING FROM OUR SECOND DECADE OF ADVOCACY.

1993



The European Commission establishes the European Centre for the Validation of Alternative methods (ECVAM) to animal testing.

1997



Animals are finally recognised as sentient beings in the Treaty of Amsterdam.

1997



The EU transposes the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) into EU law, incorporating new animal welfare rules.

1998



The Directive on general farm animal welfare transposes the Council of Europe convention on the protection of animals kept for farm purposes. As such, it provides protection for farm animals not previously protected by EU rules, such as fur animals, turkeys, geese, sheep and horses.

1999



After 12 years of laborious negotiations, the EU Zoo Directive is finally adopted, imposing national licences to operate, regular zoo inspections and participation in research and educational activities.

1999



The newly adopted Laying Hens Directive foresees a ban in 2012 on the use of battery cages

OUR MEMBERS

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Educational



Institutionalised



In the field



Investigative

EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS' MEMBERSHIP HAS GROWN TO 50 MEMBERS OVER A PERIOD OF 30 YEARS, IN RESPONSE TO EU ENLARGEMENT AND TO MAINTAIN THE ORGANISATION'S REPRESENTATIVITY AND CREDIBILITY.

The landscape of animal advocacy organisations in Europe is very diverse. Advocates for improved rights and welfare now use different complementary approaches to give a voice to animals. While some cover different roles, some focus on only one of them such as to raise awareness, denounce abuse through investigations, mobilize the general public or lead educational or rescue programmes. The two examples below illustrate this diversity.



WELFARM

- Educational farm “La Hardonnerie” since 2011
- Rescue of endangered livestock and other farm animals
- Education of visitors on animal welfare and responsible consumption

Visit: www.welfarm.fr



**EUROGROUP
FOR
ANIMALS**

JOIN US



TIERSCHUTZBUND ZÜRICH/ AWF FOUNDATION

Latest investigations widely covered in media:

- long-distance transport in EU and third countries
- Production and import of horsemeat from North- and South America
- Educational initiatives in Eastern Europe
- Inspectors in markets and farms in Poland
- Visit: www.tierschutzbund-zuerich.ch

SUPPORT US

EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS IS A STRONG VOICE FOR ANIMALS IN EUROPE. OUR STRENGTH COMES FROM OUR MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND PARTNERS WITH WHOM WE RELENTLESSLY ADVOCATE TO IMPROVE THE WELFARE OF THE MILLIONS OF ANIMALS LIVING BY OUR SIDES.

But this is an uphill battle. This is why we constantly strive to attract new supporters to join our movement and why we also need your help. Animal suffering is a reality, but there is an alternative. So come and join your forces to ours to fight for a better future for all animals.

There are many ways to help: visit our website, sign our latest petition, follow us on social media, share our posts or contact us to become a member or make a donation.



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The sugar glider
(*petorus breviceps*)
is one of the species
that suffers because
of exotic pet trade

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