



THEMA

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The horrific conditions of live exportation for animals leaving Europe

JOINING FORCES

For a humane control of "pest animals"

INTERVIEW

Meet Maltese Minister Galdes

MEMBERS

On social media followed by millions of citizens

4

THE TORTURE OF ANIMALS EXPORTED OUTSIDE THE EU

A terrible journey



6

MINISTER RODERICK GALDES

MALTA EU2017 and animal welfare



10

JOINING FORCES

For a humane control of "pest animals"



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

Editor in Chief: Elise Fleury
Design: BakOS DESIGN

All pictures' copyrights belong to Eurogroup for Animals, are free of rights or accredited to its owner.

CONTENTS

3 EDITORIAL

4 **THEMA**

6 INTERVIEW

8 ANIMAL NEWS IN EUROPE

What happened during the last 3 months

10 JOINING FORCES

14 MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Follow our work for animal welfare

17 A GLIMPSE OF HOW WE WORK

Eurogroup for Animals' Board

18 OUR MEMBERS

19 SUPPORT US

Contact and social media



EDITORIAL

First and foremost I wish you a fantastic, healthy and joyful New Year.

This year will see several key elections in Germany, France, the Netherlands, possibly Italy; political developments like the formal triggering of Brexit; and start of the Trump era. Amidst this uncertainty we will continue to seize the opportunities to deliver positive change for animals.

Animal welfare bears no political colour and holds the potential to reconnect citizens with policy and decision makers. Let me recall last years' Eurobarometer, an independent EU wide survey, which unequivocally showed that citizens truly want better legislative protection of all animals. Also, the European Parliament Intergroup for the Welfare and Conservation of Animals counts more cross-political, cross-party members than ever before. Animals are also one of the societal topics about which the greatest number of people express an interest on facebook in Europe, which is another testimony to how dear caring for animals is to Europeans.

Yet, we are facing political deadlocks, slow progress and lack of new legislation – growing the gap between what people want and what Europe delivers.

But the good news is, this year there is an important opportunity on the horizon to break through the stalemates and foster meaningful change for animals. From January the Maltese Government has taken the helm of the Presidency and is committed to hold the first meeting of the EU Animal Welfare Platform a new instrument to foster exchange between the institutions and stakeholders. We are very excited about this initiative which should re-establish strong leadership on animal welfare.

Indeed, 2017 will be an important year for animals. It will see the finale of our important *Stop the Trucks* campaign aiming at ending the suffering of animals during long distance transportation and live exports. This year will also see the launch of the *Stop Pig suffering campaign* striving to end pig mutilations.

Enjoy the reading of our winter magazine edition. I hope that you will be even more inspired to support and join our work in 2017.



Reineke Hameleers
Director

**EUROGROUP
FOR
ANIMALS**



THEMA

THE TORTURE OF ANIMALS EXPORTED OUTSIDE THE EU

Animal advocates' determination to end long distance live animal transportation was one of the reasons for founding Eurogroup for Animals 37 years ago. Ever since, it has been a continuous battle for animal advocacy organisations, for our movement and for society at large. Yet, animal transports increase and severe suffering persists. It therefore was obvious that Eurogroup for Animals' first European flagship campaign should aim to #StoptheTrucks. You've read lots already about our campaign in previous editions of this magazine, so this edition will zoom into one of animal transportation's most dramatic expressions: the live export of animals outside the EU.

JOURNEYS OF HUNDREDS OF HOURS

Animal advocacy organisations Tierschutzbund Zürich, Animal Welfare Foundation and Eyes on Animals' 5 year investigation (2010-2015) recorded the reality of live animal exportations at Kapikule town, on the Bulgarian-Turkish border. These investigations complemented previous work, which showed the transport of animals to Turkey, or the endless journeys of young calves across Europe.

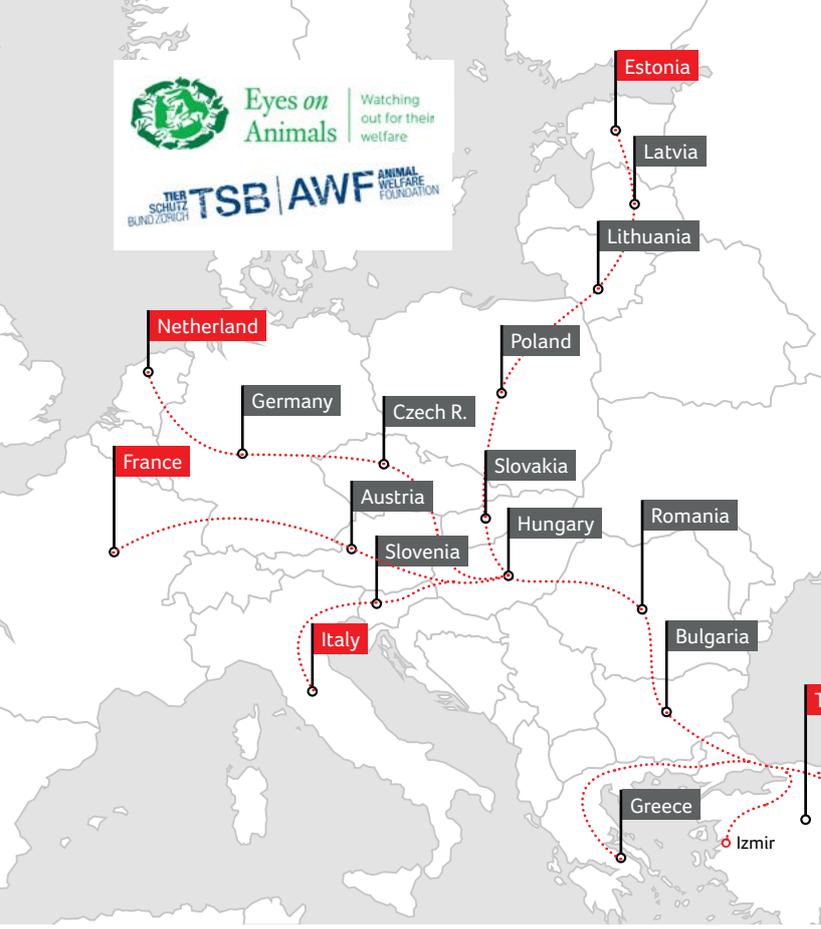
Because transports frequently incurred delays, animals often already on the road for thousands of kilometres, were forced to stay in trucks without proper space to rest, no or poor feeding, water or care. This was for example the case for 69 Belgian bovines in April 2016, left at the Bulgarian-Turkish borders without any care, food or water and resting in their own excrements for 5 days, equivalent to 120 consecutive hours.

These investigations demonstrated that 70% of the trucks inspected at the Bulgarian border were found to breach Transport Regulation 1/2005.

But animals are also often shipped alive, transported on old vessels not meant to transport livestock. Ventilation and watering systems routinely dysfunction whereas in the absence of stability of the vessel animals are forced to stand throughout their journey. Thrown out of their confined holding areas into solid walls and railings every time a wave hits the vessel, those animals often end their journeys severely injured if not dead. In most cases, there is no veterinarian on board and sick, injured or dead animals are only found once the ship reaches its destination.

BRUTAL TREATMENT UPON ARRIVAL

If animals survive this ordeal, inhumane treatment most often continues in slaughterhouses. Without proper restraint equipment and adequate training, animals routinely die in the most abominable conditions. Cattle for example, which are largely exported by the EU are tied to pillars after having been dragged with ropes from the back of trucks, and have their throats stabbed and slashed at multiple times, leading to several minutes of agony and tremendous suffering before eventually death occurs.



#StopTheTrucks

Since November, Eurogroup for Animals and its member organisations have generated a total of 2,071,697 Facebook views and action with their #StopTheTrucks campaign posts. We have now reached almost 600,000 signatures.

f 2,071,697
FACEBOOK VIEWS

600,000
SIGNATURES

COMMON ROUTES FOR CATTLE TRANSPORT TO TURKEY

- Estonia → Erzurum: **4,200 km**
- France → Adana: **4,000 km**
- Netherland → Ankara: **3,100 km**
- Italy → Erzurum: **3,100 km**
- Germany → Çorum: **2,800 km**
- Germany → Kırşehir: **2,800 km**
- Austria → Konya: **2,500 km**
- Hungary → Adana: **2,400 km**
- Greece → Izmir: **1,300 km**



WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY

The export of live animals from the EU to third countries has always been a major source of animal suffering. It is confronting to see once more through these investigations that when animals leave Europe they lose the benefit of their past legal protection, and face terrible abuse during transport and at the time of slaughter. Yet, we are convinced and strengthened in that conviction by consistent OIE standard setting, that the value of animal welfare knows no border. It is terribly contradictory to strive for and commit to better conditions for animals in Europe, while ignoring their unacceptable suffering as soon as animals are destined to slaughter outside the EU.

This situation is not only immoral, but also unnecessary as live animals could be substituted by carcasses. Moreover, in 2015 the Court of Justice indeed ruled in the *Zuchtvieh case* that the Transport Regulation 1/2005's provisions not only apply to the EU but rather to the entire journey of transporting European animals outside Europe, until their final destination. And yet, the trade continues and so does the suffering, in disregard of the highest Court's Jurisprudence.

A GROWING TREND

The number of live animals exported from the EU has grown dramatically in the past years according to European Commission figures. In 2015, export values increased with 25,2% compared to 2014 and we see further increases

confirmed in 2016. The number of animals (expressed in tons) exported to the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey in the first nine months of 2016 more than doubled the entire 2014 export volumes to these regions, and grew by 20% compared to the whole of 2015. Turkey is the primary destination for live animals from Europe.

URGENT SITUATION NEEDS DRAMATIC RESPONSE – #STOPHETRUCKS

Thanks to the pressure of Eurogroup for Animals and its network, the control post of Royal Haskovo in Bulgaria reopened in November 2016. This control post was closed since April 2016. In that timeframe, animals would be allowed to leave the EU even if their health and welfare and the conditions of the trucks in which they were transported were in violation with EU legislation. Since then, animals can at least again be unloaded, receive feeding, rest, and sick or unfit animals can be provided with basic care before they leave the EU to enter into Turkey. Nevertheless, this is just a patch on the immense suffering of animals exported from Europe every day, especially during the coldest and warmest times of the year.

A major investigation is currently being completed by some of our member organisations which is likely to deeply shock public opinion by exposing once more and in greater detail than ever before these immoral and illegal practices. Follow our work on social media and on our website to stay informed about the investigations we will help release early spring.

INTERVIEW

RODERICK GALDES, MALTESE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND ANIMAL RIGHTS



Photo: Ms Marlene Mizzi - MEP, Mr Roderick Galdes - Maltese Government, Ms Reineke Hameleers and Mr Andreas Erler - Eurogroup for Animals, Mr Roberto Balbo - Chief Veterinary Officer Malta, Ms Maria Gatt - office of the Director General Malta, Mr Novel Montebello - Director Animal Welfare, Promotion and Services Malta

Last years' special Eurobarometer on animal welfare has once again demonstrated European citizens expect better protection for animals than today. We were fascinated to find out Maltese citizens are among the strongest supporters for better animal welfare in the [survey](#). Yet, progress on improving animal welfare legislation is frozen and citizens' expectations have therefore not materialised in concrete actions.

Eurogroup for Animals has high expectations from the Maltese Presidency to create an impetus for some of these concrete actions. Last December we presented our [Presidency Memorandum](#) at a dedicated animal welfare event in Malta hosted by MEP Marlene Mizzi and attended by tens of local and very passionate NGO's see picture above. Malta has the only Minister on "animal rights" (coupled with agriculture and fisheries) in the EU and we therefore seized this opportunity to ask Mr. Galdes how important animal welfare is for him and what we can expect from the Maltese Presidency's term.

Were you familiar with animal welfare issues before taking up this role?

I was of course aware of animal welfare issues, but by taking up the role of a politician responsible for this portfolio, my interest and knowledge has grown exponentially. My interactions with animal welfare NGOs and the Directorate responsible for this sector within my Ministry have taught me a lot on technical issues and the realities on the ground.

This has given me the impetus to update and introduce national policies, promote and educate the general public through awareness campaigns. Also, through my contacts with animal welfare NGOs, I have come to realise that they continuously need human and financial resources. This is why we have created a dedicated fund for NGOs, to enable them to pursue their activities or new projects.

How do you think animal welfare is perceived in Malta?

Over the past decade the awareness and involvement of the general public in animal welfare issues have increased, and for the first time in Malta this subject was elevated to national politics with a political party including animal welfare in its electoral manifesto.

Witness to this interest is for example the very high use of the emergency help line – 1717 – which my Government has introduced in 2013. The Government also felt it needed to establish a permanently reachable care centre for animals which is why we opened a state of the art animal hospital through a Private Public Partnership.

You are working on the issues of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights. Why do you think these are important topics for the Presidency; why do you think it is important to approach these topics as a whole?

We are very aware that animal welfare is a horizontal issue that ought to be considered whenever decisions are taken



Photo: Mr Roderick Galdes - Maltese Minister for agriculture, fisheries and animal rights

that impact animals, whether it is about farm or companion animals. In my contribution to the recent Animal Welfare Conference the 'Rights of the Voiceless' organised by the Maltese MEP, Marlene Mizzi, I also emphasised that. Our Government has put animal welfare high on its agenda, we must therefore work towards ensuring that every stakeholder has its say, that we bring all the relevant sectors together.

What are the key priorities for the Presidency in terms of Animal Welfare?

We anticipate that the launch of the EU Animal Welfare Platform by the European Commission will be the most significant development during our Presidency term. This platform came as a result of the Member States' agreement that a viable way is needed to share best practices with all stakeholders concerned, focusing on better enforcement of animal welfare legislation and policies. We will welcome every opportunity to help the Commission ensure a successful launch of the platform. Collaboration with NGOs such as Eurogroup for Animals and the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals is therefore essential.

Another important objective is to raise the profile of animal welfare and emphasize its importance. I want the European Council meetings to be a forum for discussion about animals. This is why, jointly with the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals and Eurogroup for Animals, we will for example co-host a high level event on exotic pets in February and on stray animals in April.



Andreas Erler, Senior Political Advisor

INSIDE THE INTERGROUP ON THE WELFARE AND CONSERVATION OF ANIMALS

AGENDA OF THE INTERGROUP MEETINGS of first quarter of 2017

19 January 2017

Strasbourg ANIMAL WELFARE IN THE EU: CURRENT SITUATION AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

Prof. Don Broom, University of Cambridge, UK

Presentation of his soon-to-be released report on "Animal Welfare in the European Union: progress so far and future prospects". This report, sponsored by the European Parliament's Petitions Committee to allow for an evidence-based response of the Parliament to the many petitions received concerning animals in the past decade, is likely to become a major reference document on the need and advantages of EU legislation on animal welfare.

16 February 2017

Strasbourg THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EU ANIMAL WELFARE PLATFORM

EU Commissioner Andriukaitis updating the Intergroup on the formal launch of the EU Animal Welfare Platform expected mid 2017.

27 February 2017

Brussels: 'THINK POSITIVE': WHY EUROPE NEEDS POSITIVE LISTS TO REGULATE THE SALE AND KEEPING OF EXOTIC ANIMALS AS PETS

Promotion of the Positive List as the most effective way to regulate the keeping and sale of exotic pets in EU. The event, open to a broader public, will also show how it can help prevent the introduction of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.

Likely presence of EU Commissioner Vella.

16 March 2017

Strasbourg: A EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS AUDIT ON EU BUDGET EXPENDITURE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

Janusz Wojciechowski, European Court of Auditors Member will share the findings of his recent audit on behalf of the Court of Auditors on EU expenditure for animal welfare.

IN EUROPE

#Act4Wildlife

NEW SUCCESSES FOR WILD ANIMALS IN CIRCUSES



Last December, the city of Tallinn (ESTONIA), sent an official letter to Estonian animal organisations in which it declared to no longer issue new public event permits to circuses that use wild animals. In recent months, the cities of Tartu and Pärnu have made a similar decision. The topic is currently being discussed also in the councils of Viljandi and Kuressaare.

The Estonian ministry of rural affairs is currently working on a draft to ban the use of all wild animals in circuses. Provided the draft is approved by the parliament, it will come into force on June 1, 2018.

Currently, 23 countries in the world have established a total nation-wide ban on the use of wild animals or all animals in circuses. Nine European Union countries have clearly banned the use of all or wild animals in circuses; another nine countries have established partial bans.

#Act4LabAnimals

INTOLERABLE SUFFERING OF ANIMALS IN BRUSSELS ACADEMIC RESEARCH FACILITY



Between March and June 2016, an undercover investigator of Belgian NGO Gaia worked as animal caretaker in the animal unit of the Free University of Brussels, a major Belgian University. GAIA's investigator witnessed how animals were subjected daily to painful tests with routine complacency, neglect, insufficient care and regard for animal suffering and welfare. He witnessed cruel and shocking killing methods and recorded several breaches of legislation during routine experiments, especially in the application of killing methods.

The applied killing methods need to meet specific, legal and clearly defined requirements as outlined in the Belgian Royal Decree of 2013 on the protection of laboratory animals, and in European directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes.

#Act4AnimalsEU

“ANIMAL POLITIQUE”: FRENCH MANIFESTO DEDICATED TO THE WELFARE OF ANIMALS



Photo: ©Animal Politique

For several months, 26 French animal welfare organisations, including all French member organisations of Eurogroup for Animals (Fondation Brigitte Bardot, L214, Welfarm, LFDA La Fondation Droit Animal, Ethique et Sciences and Confédération Nationale des SPA de France) have been working together to raise awareness of politicians on the conditions of animals in France. This group's work, called [Collectif Animal Politique](#), culminated in the publication of a Political Manifesto in view of the next French presidential elections taking place in June 2017.

Animal Politique addressed the situation of all animals: livestock, pets, animals used for experimentation, for education or entertainment, but also wild animals resulting in proposals for concrete and realistic short term actions. Overall, Animal Politique's Manifesto contains 30 proposals to improve the condition of animals in France.

#Act4Pets

DOMESTIC CAT NEUTERING MANDATORY IN WALLONIA, BELGIUM AS OF MARCH 2017



The neutering of domestic cats will become mandatory next spring, meaning every cat-owner must have his cat sterilized before the age of six months.

Previously, the regulation provided for mandatory sterilization only when the cat was given or sold. With this new Wallonian Decree, mandatory sterilization will apply to any cat that is held and the cost of sterilization will in case of sale be put on the purchaser and not on the transferor.

In 2015, nearly 27,000 animals have been collected in Walloon shelters, compared to about 24,000 in 2014. Dogs and cats are also the most commonly abandoned animals in Wallonia. More than a third of these are unfortunately euthanized due to lack of space.

Animal shelters and animal welfare authorities have long deplored the tragic situation which thousands of stray cats have had to endure. For years, GAIA and other associations have been conducting awareness campaigns to encourage owners to neuter their pets. This success is the result of their amazing efforts.

#FurFreeEU

SUPREME DUTCH COURT UPHOLDS MINK FARMING BAN



In a recent historical ruling, the Dutch Supreme Court rejected in December a claim from fur farmers alleging that the national fur farming ban conflicts with their human rights. The ban was first introduced in the Netherlands in 2013, with an 11 year transition period, making it illegal to breed or kill an animal for its fur on the basis of public morale.

Mink farmers and the Dutch Federation of Noble Fur Holders went to court claiming the ban breached the European Convention on Human Rights in the absence of a proper compensation system for financial losses caused. A national appeal court had already rejected this claim, which has now been confirmed once more by the Supreme Court.

The Netherlands has about 160 fur farms employing approximately 1400 people. It is the third biggest fur farming nation in the world behind Denmark and China. This final verdict concludes years of battle between the mink federation, the government and animal advocacy organisations, and sets a significant precedent for other EU countries currently considering fur farming bans.

#Act4LabAnimals

DUTCH SEE 2025 AS FIRST YEAR WITHOUT REGULATORY ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS

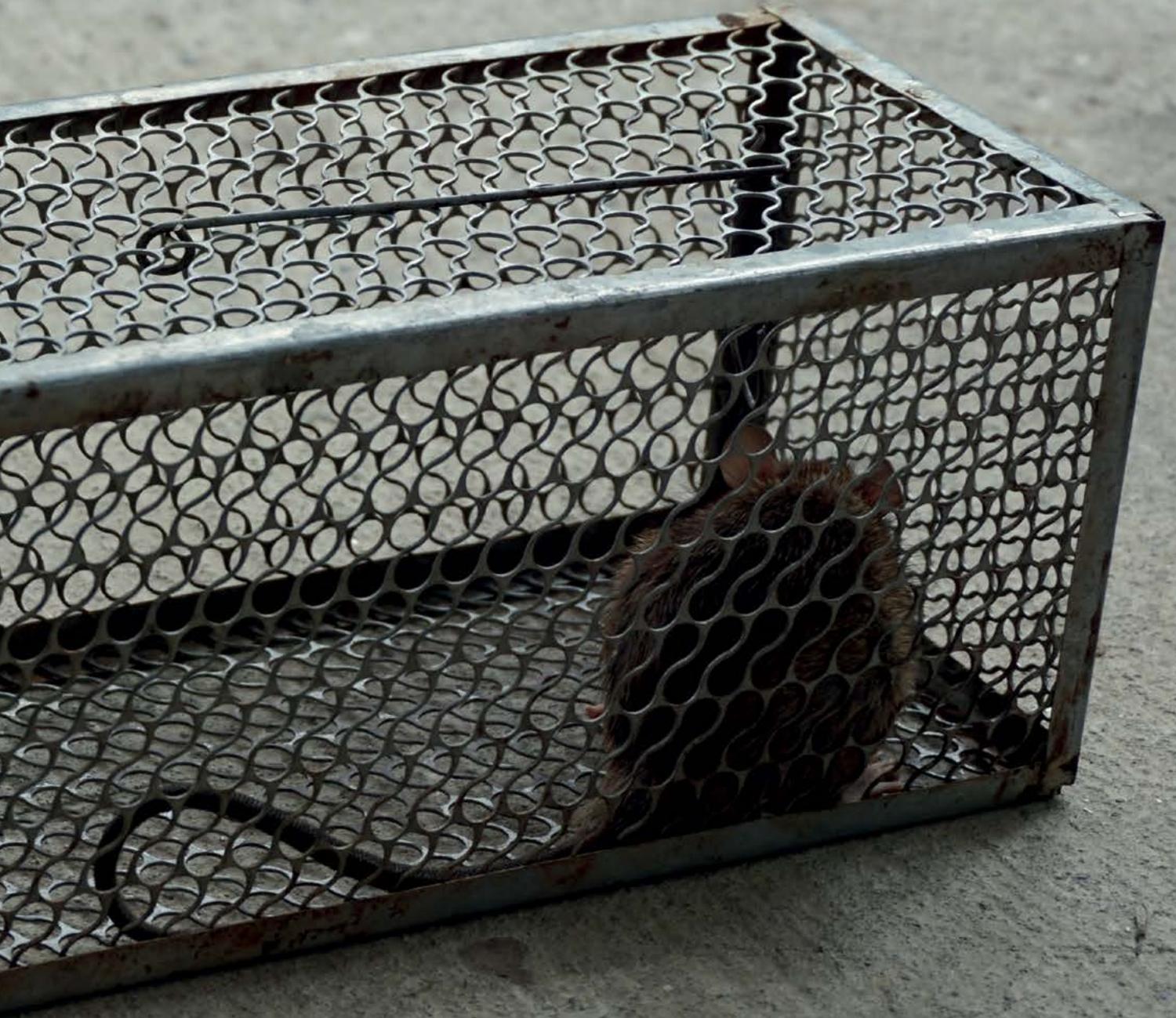


For the first time an EU Member State has presented a strategy on the phasing out of animal experiments. In a time where non-animal alternative approaches are gaining momentum, the ground breaking advisory report *'Transition to non-animal research on opportunities for the phasing out of animal procedures'* launched mid-December by the Netherlands National Committee for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes (NCAD) is very much [welcomed](#).

Key aspects to be embedded in a transitional strategy towards this goal are: a government's strong leadership, targeted investments into the validation of alternatives and a full endorsement at both the European and international levels. The Committee received the mandate to take up these recommendations and work further on a concrete Animal free Innovation Agenda

PEST ANIMALS are actively being managed across the world to mitigate their impact on humans and other animals. But there are no European standards to guarantee a humane treatment for these animals. Members of Eurogroup for Animals have therefore decided to unite their forces and create new opportunities for humane control of “pest animals”.





JOINING FORCES



FOR A HUMANE CONTROL OF PEST ANIMALS

A “pest animal” can be defined as any animal that is believed to cause severe nuisance and epidemic disease associated with high mortality and to be detrimental to human activity such as agriculture or livestock production. Although society accepts “pest animals” to be ‘managed’ (killed, monitored, controlled, etc.) all over the world, they also remain animals, meaning sentient beings, and they therefore deserve a humane treatment.

In 1997 the EU concluded an Agreement with Canada and the Russian Federation on international humane trapping standards. However, any attempt to set-up European humane trapping standards in line with the EU- Canada-Russia agreement has so far failed.

JOINING FORCES WITHIN EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS

8 member organisations of Eurogroup for Animals recently decided to join forces and structurally discuss humane management methods for “pest animals”. During its recent first meeting, the group took stock of current pest management practices in their countries and discussed the development of new and more humane methods evidenced by recently released scientific studies.

INFLUENCING EU LEGISLATION

One of the action routes this “pest animals” group considered, concerns the implementation of the new EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species (1143/2014). Article 9 of this Regulation explicitly requires that methods for the management of invasive alien species must spare any avoidable pain, distress or suffering of the targeted animals.

Invasive Alien Species (IAS) are generally understood as species introduced outside their natural range and whose introduction or spread has been found to threaten or adversely impact upon biodiversity. The EU is determined to stop the further decline of biodiversity in Europe by aggressively addressing the damage caused by IAS. The overlap between such animals and ‘pest animals’, therefore could offer opportunities for the introduction of humane management methods applicable to both.

As a member of the European Commission’s Working Group on IAS, Eurogroup for Animals is working in collaboration with Member State officials, private actors and other NGOs to identify and promote best practices for the management of IAS. This offers us an opportunity to emphasise how urgent it is for the Commission to share clear guidance with Member States on the management of IAS, stressing the existence and added value of humane or non-lethal control methods to ensure compliance with Article 9.

This work is relevant also for the management of “pest animals”, as some alien species (like the muskrat or the coypu) are considered “pest animals” according to national legislation. It would also set a precedent for humane animal population controls in accordance with Europe’s values and respect for animal sentience.

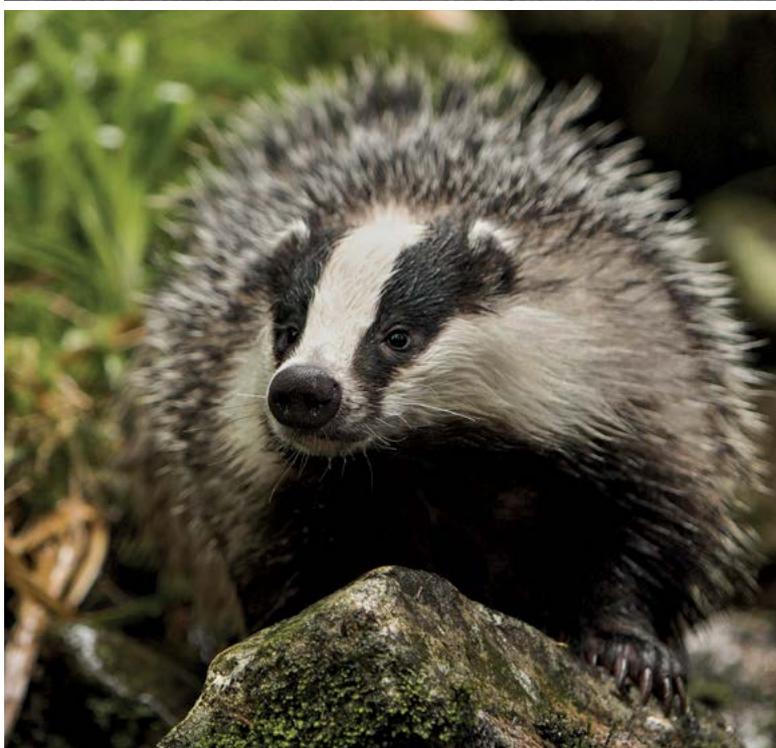
WORKING WITH PRIVATE PARTNERS

Humane approaches to wildlife control have been used globally for over a decade, in particular by experts in Australia and New Zealand. Innovative and effective non-lethal approaches for managing animal pest populations through fertility control have recently appeared under the impetus of private initiatives. For example, American industry has conceived and will soon commercialise a new contraceptive method that can progress to sterility in both rats’ females and males as a mean to control rat populations.

Regulatory approvals are ongoing in various jurisdictions, including the USA, India, Argentina and the European Union to bring this new product to market. It is expected that this innovative and humane method of control of EU rat populations will start soon with target markets such as municipalities (e.g., subways, transit systems and public housing agencies); agriculture (e.g., farms, storage facilities and animal production facilities – including cattle, sheep, pig and poultry facilities); food production (e.g., factories, meat-packing facilities, dairy production plants and vegetable and fruit preparation facilities); retail and leisure facilities (e.g., major restaurant chains, retail locations, casinos and hotels).

ENGAGING CIVIL SOCIETY TO CLARIFY DEFINITIONS AND PRINCIPLES

The British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BCSPCA) recently developed a standard approach to wildlife control which could constitute a useful advocacy to animal welfare organisations. Eurogroup for Animals’ members are determined to further encourage the development of new humane control methods among academic and private stakeholders and incentivize and encourage humane wildlife control approaches in their advocacy work.





MAKING A DIFFERENCE

**FOLLOW OUR WORK
FOR ANIMAL WELFARE**



NEW EP INITIATIVE FREES 600,000 EURO FOR PIGS

Andreas ERLER, Senior Political Adviser

Among the major highlights of the European Parliament's animal welfare related initiatives in 2016 is the adoption of a pilot project to pursue a harmonised internal market for pig meat obtained from pigs not surgically castrated. As a result 600,000 EURO will be invested in this study as a means to grow acceptance and stakeholder buy-in to phase out surgical castration of pigs by 2018 as laid down in the European Declaration on Alternatives to surgical castration of pigs.

The surgical castration of piglets has been practiced for centuries to remove an unpleasant odour from pork known as 'boar taint', but which only appears in a small percentage of pigs. It is also carried out by many to prevent undesirable sexual and aggressive behaviour in pigs. Nowadays however, with the progress of science and the appearance of new boar taint management practices, the surgical castration of piglets is considered as a major animal welfare concern. Research has proven that it inflicts prolonged pain, even on very young piglets and especially if it is performed without anaesthesia and analgesia. Surgical castration also leads to an excessive use of antibiotics to prevent and cure the infections such surgery can cause, which is increasingly scrutinized to fight anti-microbial resistance.

With an estimated 83 million animals affected annually and a majority of consumers wanting farm animal welfare to be better protected, we believe action is urgently needed to eradicate this practice.

While some Member States have already taken concrete initiatives to commercialise pork from pigs that have not been surgically castrated, there is currently no level playing field for this meat on the internal EU market. Besides contributing to accelerate the process of EU wide harmonisation, the pilot project should furthermore allow to disseminate practical solutions to commonly perceived problems among key operators of the pork chain. As such, it will also showcase the associated economic and societal advantages of stopping the surgical castration of pigs.

The successful adoption of this pilot project is the result of intense and coordinated efforts between Eurogroup for Animals, pig farmers who raise entire boars and MEPs of the Animal Welfare Intergroup's.



MEPs CONFIRM THEIR DETERMINATION TO FIGHT AGAINST WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

Ilaria DI SILVESTRE, Programme leader – Wildlife

On 24 November, the European Parliament (EP) adopted with an overwhelming majority an own-initiative report by Catherine Bearder MEP on the EU Action Plan Against Wildlife Trafficking. The report aims to ensure effective implementation and enforcement of the EU Action Plan published in February 2016 by the European Commission, calling Member States to act coherently and more efficiently against wildlife trafficking.

Illegal wildlife trade has escalated exponentially in recent years, and has attracted the involvement of organised criminal networks. The European Union is not only a major destination market for illegal wildlife products, but also serves as a transit hub for trafficking to other regions. The adopted European Parliament Report focuses on how the EU and Member States should step up their efforts to combat wildlife trafficking, even beyond the actions identified in the Action Plan.

Eurogroup for Animals is part of a coalition of international NGOs that provided advice to the MEPs for Wildlife, a group of MEPs – including Mrs Bearder – that played a crucial role during the development process of the Commission Action Plan. During the last months, we worked with the MEPs, promoting the inclusion of relevant amendments in Mrs Bearder's Report.

Our efforts resulted in the adoption of all suggested amendments. These include the call for the full and immediate ban of trade, export or re-export within the EU and to destinations outside the EU of ivory, including ivory acquired prior to CITES Convention entering into force.

In addition, the Report explicitly calls upon EU Member States to establish a Positive List of exotic animals that can be kept as pets – a key tenet of Eurogroup for Animals' and AAP Animal Advocacy and Protection's joint *Think Positive* campaign.

Finally, the Parliament's Report also recognises the important role of rescue centres in rescuing a growing number of exotic animals in Europe. To ensure the continuation of this important work, the Parliament called on the EU and Member States to ensure their adequate financing.



TURNING OUR ATTENTION TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF NEW REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PET BREEDERS

Joe MORAN, Programme leader – Companion animals/Political Affairs Adviser



In 2015, Eurogroup for Animals achieved a milestone success in terms of pet traceability. Thanks to collaborative work with MEPs and Member States alike, it was explicitly stated in the new EU Animal Health Law that breeders of pet animals will have to be registered with a designated competent authority from 21 April 2021 onwards. Furthermore, this requirement doesn't just affect breeders alone, but should also affect sellers, as ultimately those selling animals will have to have the animals kept somewhere.

Given that unregulated, backstreet breeding practices are largely responsible for creating the supply that fuels the illegal trade in dogs and cats, knowing who is breeding and marketing the animals a crucial pillar of dog and cat traceability.

Eurogroup for Animals and its member organisations are now turning their attention to the next key stage of this process: the enforcement of the legislation in each Member State. To define which authority, and at what level, in addition to the penalties that are foreseen in the event of non-compliance by breeders will be key to the success of this new legal tool. That's why Eurogroup for Animals is now reaching out to national governments through its members across the EU, to exchange best practice as to how this crucial new rule is to be applied.

Ultimately, this European law will be judged by its effectiveness in bringing puppy farms and back street breeders of cats and dogs out of the shadows and into the light. Eurogroup for Animals is determined to ensure that it is used to its maximum effect in this regard.



IT'S TIME TO APPLY LEGISLATION PROTECTING PIGS IN THE EU

Elena NALON, Programme leader-Farm animals



We are faced with a quite unprecedented situation in the EU concerning the implementation of animal welfare laws. The provisions set down in the "Pigs Directive" (2008/120/EC), whereby all pigs should be provided with adequate materials and should not be routinely tail-docked, are being blatantly ignored by the industrial pig farming sector, with the complacency of Member States.

Things, however, are moving forward. In March 2016, the European Commission published a 'Recommendation' and a 'Staff Working Document' that provide very concrete indications for national competent authorities on the steps that are necessary (and urgent) to improve implementation of the Pigs Directive. Directorate F (previously known as the Food and Veterinary Office) has been charged with carrying out a priority action plan and a series of controls on the degree of compliance of Member States with pig welfare provisions.

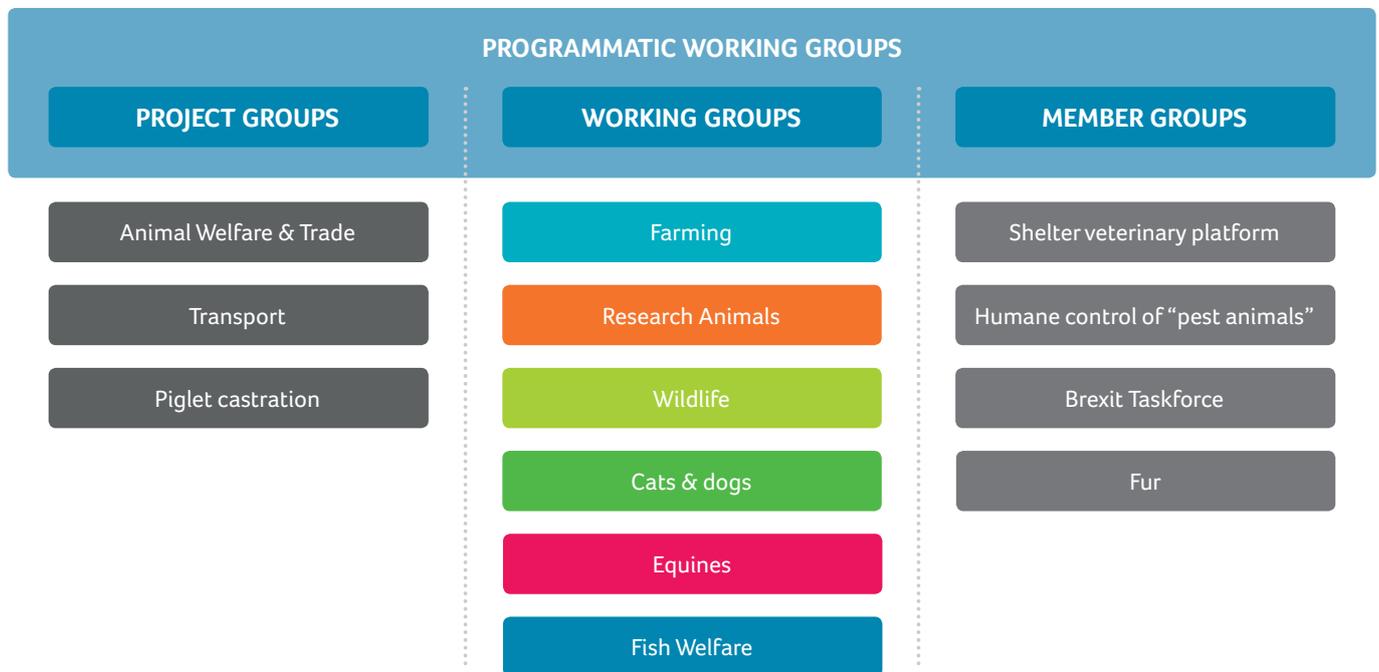
Reducing tail docking by adapting management and providing enrichment is not impossible. For instance, Sweden and Finland are no longer allowing tail docking of pigs. The example of Finland is very interesting, because the Finnish pig industry is mostly conventional and straw is not given in large quantities to pigs. Therefore, solutions are at hand.

We see the value of fostering best practices, as was the case during a recent 3-day meeting organised by Directorate F in Grange last October. However, we believe that now is the time for real action, time to create a level playing field for those who are respecting the rules and incurring higher costs. And most of all, time to give our pigs the protection they deserve. For our part, we have mobilised the Intergroup for the Welfare and Conservation of Animals and, with a group of dedicated MEPs, we will closely monitor the implementation of the action plan.

GET TO KNOW US

THE THEMATIC GROUPS OF EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS

To help unleash the power of our network and deliver collective impact for animals, Eurogroup for Animals runs thematic working groups which bring together experts from its members and staff to share knowledge, best practices and innovation. These groups also define the organisation's course of actions.



The "**Programmatic Working groups**" serve as the engine of Eurogroup for Animals' advocacy strategy, with the following role:

- Develop and agree campaigning strategies and project definitions
- Align and coordinate lobby activities by several members in order to maximize results
- Exchange knowledge and best practices, explore opportunities
- Define and update Eurogroup for Animals policy positions
- When new legislative proposals are published, agree on a coordinated reaction to it

- "Programmatic Working groups" cover one distinct topic or policy field whereas sub-working groups may focus on specific campaigns or projects. Sub-working groups can have a temporary or structural character.
- Apart from the programmatic working groups, Eurogroup for Animals also runs temporary "**Project groups**" among others dedicated to annual flagship campaigns, or special projects.
- As our members also learn and build their capacities from mutual exchange on topics outside of agreed Eurogroup for Animals strategies, we also facilitate interaction between them through "**Member groups**".

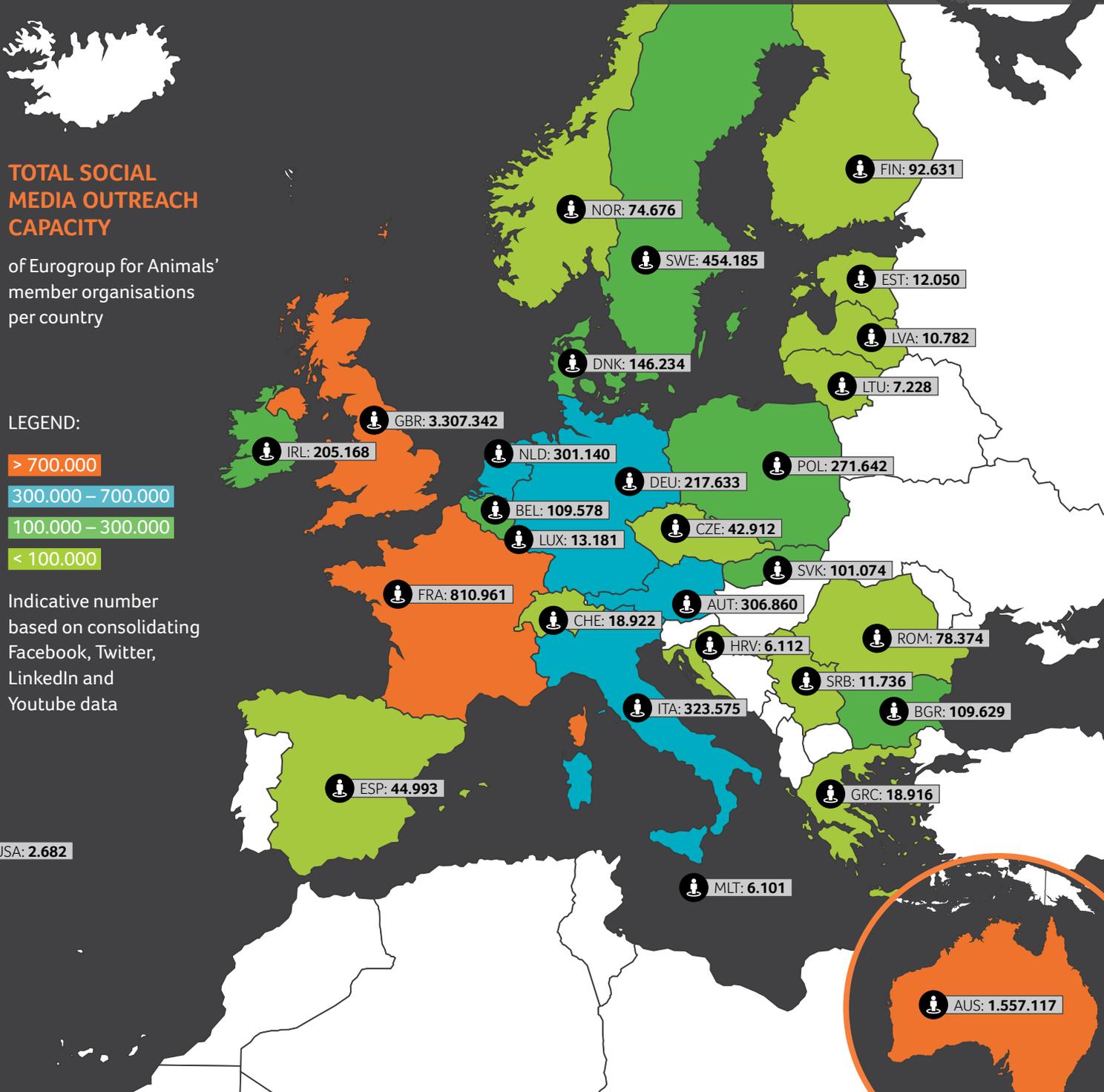
OUR MEMBERS

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Our daily interaction with Twitter, Facebook or LinkedIn shows us the undeniable impact of social media today. With over 25 million people along having indicated an interest in animals in their very personal facebook page preference, it has become clear to animal advocates how much of potential instruments like Facebook bear to generate awareness and engage citizens in our cause.

Animal advocacy organisations have increasingly professionalized in the way they are communicating with their audiences. While running our coordinated European campaigns, we realise once more how instrumental the communication capacity of our members is to mobilize supporters at local and national level to act for animals.

The map below gives a clear idea of the media outreach of our network.



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.



CONTACT:

Sophie De Jonckheere

Communications and
Development Manager

s.dejonckheere@eurogroupforanimals.org

WE ARE SOCIAL



[www.facebook.com/
eurogroupforanimals](http://www.facebook.com/eurogroupforanimals)



[@Act4AnimalsEU](https://twitter.com/Act4AnimalsEU)



[www.linkedin.com/com
pany/eurogroup-for-
animals](http://www.linkedin.com/company/eurogroup-for-animals)



[plus.google.com
> Eurogroup for
Animals](https://plus.google.com/>Eurogroup%20for%20Animals)



[www.pinterest.com/
Act4AnimalsEU](http://www.pinterest.com/Act4AnimalsEU)



[www.scoop.it/t/animal-
by-eurogroup-4-animals](http://www.scoop.it/t/animal-by-eurogroup-4-animals)



[youtube.com
> Eurogroup for
Animals](https://youtube.com/>Eurogroup%20for%20Animals)



www.eurogroupforanimals.org



Rue des Patriotes, 6 – 1000 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 (0)2 740 08 20
Email: info@eurogroupforanimals.org
www.eurogroupforanimals.org

EUROGROUP
FOR ANIMALS