

WHY IS THE TRADE AND ANIMAL WELFARE LINKAGE IMPORTANT AND HOW SHOULD IT BE TACKLED?



“How we treat animals reflects the way we treat our companion humans. This principle needs to reflect in the international trade agreements as well, with strong animal welfare standards as a prerequisite for trade.”

Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP, President of the EP's Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals



“European animal welfare measures initially focused, almost exclusively, on animals as commodities. However, increased public awareness of ethical concerns has moved the focus beyond just food production, and greater recognition is being given to the interests of animals as sentient beings. While the European Union is leading the world in this effort, its trade policy could better reflect this focus and further incent and support its partners in promoting this objective.”

Peter L. Fitzgerald, Professor of Law Emeritus and author of *International Issues in Animal Law*

EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS

EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS is the pan-European animal advocacy umbrella organisation that unites the voices of the leading national and international animal welfare organisations.

We work to improve the welfare of animals by driving and delivering coordinated advocacy and campaigns at EU level, challenging decision makers to bring about positive change.



“At Eurogroup for Animals, we recognise that trade can have an immense and detrimental impact on animal welfare. Trade in animal products has almost doubled in Europe in the last decade and so it is vital that we pursue direct lobbying action to put animal welfare in the minds of trade negotiators within the EU.”

Reineke Hameleers
Director, Eurogroup for Animals



TRADE & ANIMAL WELFARE PROJECT

Eurogroup for Animals' Trade & Animal Welfare Project (T&AW Project) addresses the threats and opportunities international trade presents to animal welfare.

We are a critical, constructive partner to EU decision makers offering WTO compatible solutions to problems identified. We maintain a holistic, long term and strategic approach to animal welfare in multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations.

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See the T&AW Project website for examples of our work and publications, including a TTIP analysis and Mapping of EU FTAs and Trade Negotiations.

TRADE & ANIMAL WELFARE

OUR OBJECTIVES

- 1 Ensure EU trade relations do not present a barrier to maintaining and improving EU standards of animal welfare protection.
- 2 Positively impact animal welfare protection in partner countries through trade relations; provide relevant incentives and technical assistance.

The T&AW Project is made possible by:



#WhatsInIt4Animals

EU TRADE POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS





OUR RAISON D'ÊTRE

PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR ANIMAL WELFARE PROTECTION: Widespread support in Europe for animal welfare protection validates our work and necessitates action at European level. The results of a 2016 special Eurobarometer on animal welfare prove this: 94% of Europeans agree it is important to protect the welfare of farmed animals, 82% agree farm animal welfare should be better protected than it is now, and 93% agree imported animal products should meet European standards.

INCREASING EXTRA-EU TRADE: Extra-EU trade in animal products almost doubled in the last decade and amounted to over 65 billion euros in 2015. Imports rose from 21 billion euros in 2005 to over 30 billion euros in 2015. Exports rose from over 18 billion euros in 2005 to 35 billion euros in 2015. Increasing access to the EU market without ensuring compliance with domestic standards promotes sub-standard imports which directly affect the competitiveness of European producers and expose consumers to sub-standard animal products without providing the information necessary to make informed purchasing choices. The EU also loses its leverage in trade negotiations to improve animal welfare globally.

EU FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS: Contrary to the EU's reputation as a world leader in animal welfare, FTAs have included little to no farm animal welfare protection whilst allowing considerable liberalisation of trade in animal

products. The EU's importance on the global market and its reputation on animal welfare mean it has a decisive role to play on this issue in its bilateral and multilateral negotiations.

Despite transports of live animals entailing immense suffering and despite EU exports of live animals regularly breaching relevant regulations and court decisions, these trade flows are supported by the EU institutions and grow accordingly. EU trade policy cannot be responsible and consistent with broader European values unless this practice is effectively ceased.

The illegal wildlife trade is currently worth USD 22 billion worldwide, despite the EU's efforts to increase wildlife protection through FTAs. EU FTAs can and should encourage the enforcement of existing international agreements like CITES, promote common understanding, and assist partner countries to protect wildlife. As a top 3 market for wildlife products and a transit and source point for wildlife trafficking, the EU must also consider best practices from partner countries in enacting domestic legislation.

Despite the availability of alternatives, many countries require animal testing on chemicals or products. EU FTAs have thus far failed to take advantage of opportunities to minimise this unnecessary suffering through cooperation, recognition of results using alternative methods, and full application of EU rules on imports.

OUR SOLUTIONS

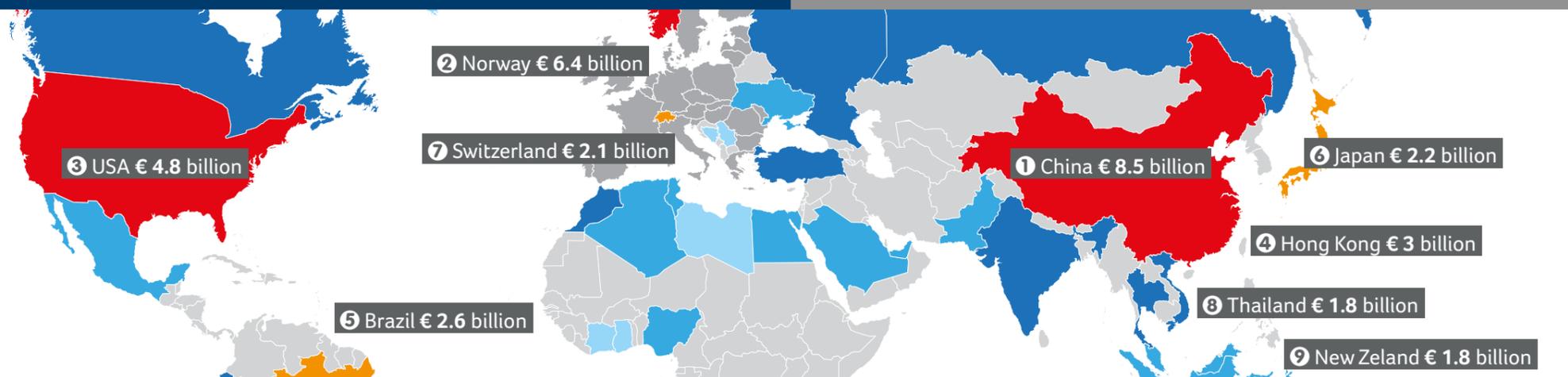
TRADE AND ANIMAL WELFARE CHAPTERS: Based on our Model Animal Welfare Provisions, EU FTAs should include an independent chapter to holistically address the importance of the trade and animal welfare nexus.

RIGHT TO REGULATE: Our Model Animal Welfare Provisions suggest how EU FTAs can ensure animal welfare protection in the EU is maintained. We provide tools that highlight legal defences available to the EU where trade measures are necessary to uphold domestic standards.

CONDITIONAL LIBERALISATION: EU FTAs should incentivise trading partners to improve animal welfare standards by granting preferential market access only when imports comply with EU minimum animal welfare standards on breeding, holding, handling, transportation and slaughter.

EXTRA-EU TRADE In Animal Products 2015

● € 4 billion + ● € 1-2 billion ● € 0.3-0.5 billion
 ● € 2-4 billion ● € 0.5-1 billion ● less than € 0.3 billion



TOP TRADING PARTNERS

In Animal Products 2000-2015
 Source: DG Trade Statistics data

● IMPORT ● EXPORT [€ billion]
 Columns: 2000-2005-2010-2015



NETWORK OF EXPERTS: Eurogroup for Animals and its member organisations offer their ample expertise on animal welfare development and country-specific local knowledge to facilitate improved standards and implementation of FTA animal welfare provisions.

RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION: Increase knowledge of European decision makers and partner countries through producing original knowledge and awareness-raising campaigns.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVISIONS FOR ANIMAL WELFARE: Include terms in EU FTAs with developing countries providing technical assistance to ensure full implementation of the animal welfare provisions.