

**MEMORANDUM ON ANIMAL
WELFARE RELATED POLICIES TO
THE SLOVAKIAN PRESIDENCY OF
THE COUNCIL OF THE EU**

SUMMARY OF ANIMAL WELFARE PRIORITIES FOR THE SLOVAKIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL FROM JULY TO DECEMBER 2016

Eurogroup for Animals, the leading pan-European animal advocacy organisation, would like to present the Slovakian Presidency of the Council of the EU with its key concerns during their forthcoming Presidency. A number of developments are on the agenda that will have significant impact on animal welfare and we trust that the Presidency will use our input and positions as set out in this document to ensure that they work to accommodate and protect animals and their welfare.

In March this year, the first Eurobarometer¹ on animal welfare in nine years conclusively demonstrated that an overwhelming majority of EU citizens want the Union's institutions to act to better protect animals. We call upon the Slovakian Presidency to listen to the voice of citizens.

We trust that this overwhelming support for animal welfare will oblige to formulate a new ambitious animal welfare strategy for 2016-2020, in line with the Resolution from the European Parliament last December.

Furthermore, In December 2014 the three governments of Germany, The Netherlands and Denmark launched an Animal Welfare Declaration. This Declaration was in April 2015 joined by Sweden. The four governments urge the EU to enforce current animal welfare legislation as it applies to husbandry, transport and slaughter of animals much stricter and to observe and respect latest scientific findings and update legislation accordingly. Holding these views the Declaration urges the Commission to:

- (i) anchor animal welfare indicators more firmly in the implementation and enforcement of legislation,
- (ii) improve consumer information on animal welfare measures or the lack thereof,
- (iii) revise the Transport Regulation with regard to conditions and journey times and
- (iv) revise the Pigs Directive (2008/120) and foresee phase out of non-therapeutic mutilations,
- (v) consider EU legislation for species currently uncovered by EU legislation such as rabbits, broilers etc. and consider EU legislation for companion animals (especially dogs and cats) kept and traded in the context of economic activities.

As a means for better coordination and preparation, the three governments further more highlighted the need for a horizontal EU Animal Welfare Platform for stakeholders and competent authorities. The latter platform was discussed extensively in February where both stakeholders and the Agricultural Council had the opportunity to comment on the idea. The Agriculture Council again discussed it in more detail in May where many member states indicated support. The idea received broad support and the Commission is now investigating how to take the idea of the Animal Welfare Platform further. We urge Slovakia to join this commitment with Member States. In these regards, our key requests for the Slovakian Presidency are as follows:

¹ Special Eurobarometer 442: Attitudes of Europeans towards Animal Welfare

OVERVIEW OF THE TOPICS

FARM ANIMALS

Slaughter - enforce the stunning of animals before slaughter.

Enforcement of the Pigs Directive (2008/120/EC) – proper enforcement of the European Commission's Recommendation and Staff Working Document

Method of Production Labelling – need to empower consumers to make informed choices in order that the market can drive further improvements in farm animal welfare

Surgical piglet castration - stimulate acceptance of alternatives to the surgical castration of pigs

Addressing antimicrobial resistance - show leadership in the fight against antimicrobial use whereby better animal welfare can play a key role in this fight

Improving transparency to consumers on higher animal welfare products - support the introduction of Method of Production Labelling for all animal products

Mid-term review of the Common Agricultural Policy - an opportunity to promote higher animal welfare practices in European livestock farming

Cloning of animals for food - support the European Parliament's position calling for an immediate permanent EU ban on the cloning of animals for food production, on the sale and imports of food products from cloned animals and their descendants

WILDLIFE

Use of wild animals in circus -

promote and support the Parliamentary Resolution to prohibit the movement of wild animals in circuses

EU Action Plan Against Wildlife

Trafficking – help in tackling the traffic of wildlife by supporting the European Commission adopted a Communication on the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking

Evaluation of the Zoo Directive –

active participation through dissemination and dialogue during the Regulatory Fitness and Performance (REFIT) process

CITES CoP 17 – support proposals for listing species on the CITES Appendices and measures aimed at increasing protection for species in serious decline and clearly affected by trade.

EQUINES

– support European parliament resolution on non-legislative measures, designed to spread best practices on the responsible ownership and care of equidae

ANIMALS IN RESEARCH, TESTING AND EDUCATION

Enforcement of Directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes: 2010/63/EU - There will be no improvement to animal welfare without proper and full implementation and enforcement of the Directive across all Member States.

Alternatives: Member States commitments – There is a need to contribute to the development and validation of alternative approaches.

TRADE

The transatlantic trade and investment (TTIP) - upholding the values and principles that citizens hold and that are embedded in the EU aqis and standards, including those related to animal welfare.

EU-Japan, EU-Mercosur -EU-Japan negotiations are important but should not be done on the expense of decreased animal welfare through intensification of farming.

Negotiations to be launched (Turkey, Australia, and New Zealand) -The Council's guidance with regard to these negotiations to be launched should include a strong language on animal welfare.

Implementation of existing agreements - proper implementation of existing free trade agreements is insufficient and/or has a backlog in enforcement or institutional set-up.

FARM ANIMALS

SLAUGHTER

According to the existing Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009, animals shall only be killed after being stunned (Art.4.1). However, derogation to this rule is possible for “animals subject to particular methods of slaughter prescribed by religious rites” (Art 4.4). When animals are not rendered unconscious before the ritual cut they are exposed to pain, suffering, fear and distress and this is confirmed by much scientific evidence. The 2004 Report by the European Food Safety Authority states that there is a high risk that animals that have not been stunned feel extreme pain during the cutting of the throat, animals shall only be killed after being stunned. Eurogroup believes that all animals should be stunned before slaughter.

Eurogroup for Animals calls on the Slovakian presidency to:

- Consider repealing the derogation which allows slaughter without stunning and the export of meat to religious consumers outside of the EU.
- Pursue a constructive dialogue with the local religious authorities in order to facilitate acceptance of reversible stunning during ritual slaughter
- Ensure proper and immediate implementation of all provisions of Council Regulation (EC) No 099/2009, and launch infringement procedures against countries that repetitively do not enforce it. Currently, no sanction is foreseen against those countries before 2018.

TRANSPORT OF LIVE ANIMALS

The 22nd of March 2016 Eurogroup for Animals launched the campaign #StopTheTrucks (www.stophetrucks.eu) aiming to end long distance live animal transport.. The long terms goals of the campaign are:

- Replacing the transport of live animals by that of semen and the transport of slaughter animals by that of carcasses and meat;
- Reducing the duration of transport of livestock (maximum of 8 hours for mammals and 4 hours for poultry);
- Refining the remaining live animals transport by stricter judgement of fitness for transport and improving the transport conditions.

For achieving these goals Eurogroup for Animals is engaging with governments to secure support for a revision of the current regulation.

Eurogroup for Animals calls for:

- *A revision of the Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 and for a socio-economic impact assessment of the external costs relating to environmental impact, biosecurity risks as well as rural development effects of long distance transport of live animals*

The European Commission's Recommendation² and Staff Working Document³ clarifying the practical requirements to comply with the Pigs Directive were published in March 2016. These documents clearly explain to competent authorities and operators which measures should be put in place, depending on the production system, to comply with the ban on routine tail docking, whose main prerequisite is the provision of appropriate environmental enrichment to all animals. They also specify measurable outcomes that can be measured to verify compliance with the legislation. In the meantime, the scale of suffering caused by the European pig industry's refusal to respect the law is enormous.

The EU rears approximately 250 million pigs a year. This means **that 3 250 million pigs were reared and killed since Directive 2008/120/EC came into force**. Based on data collected by the European Food Safety Authority⁴, the reports of official inspections carried out by the Food and Veterinary Office⁵, and the outcomes of investigations carried out by Compassion in World Farming⁶, **at least 80% of those pigs** (conservative estimate) **have been routinely tail docked which is banned since 1994 and reared without enrichment materials**. Most EU Member States have failed to enforce legislation; so far the European Commission has refused to launch infringement procedures against non-compliant Member States⁷, something that constitutes a quite extraordinary dereliction of the respective responsibilities.

Eurogroup for Animals calls for:

- *the Slovakian presidency to pressurise the Commission so that the necessary measures to enforce the Directive are put in place and so that a clear action plan including timelines for infringement procedures is produced*



² <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2016:062:TOC>

³ http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/docs/aw-pract-farm-pigs-staff-working-document_en.pdf

⁴ EFSA (2007). Scientific Report on the risks associated with tail biting in pigs and possible means to reduce the need for tail docking considering the different housing and husbandry systems. The EFSA Journal 611, 1-98.

⁵ Edman F (2014). Do the Member States of the European Union comply with the legal requirements for pigs regarding manipulable material and tail docking? First cycle, G2E. Skara: SLU, Dept. of Animal Environment and Health.

⁶ Peter Stevenson, CIWF, personal communication

METHOD OF PRODUCTION LABELLING

The European Union has emphasised its intention to empower consumers to make informed choices in order that the market can drive further improvements in farm animal welfare. The best way to achieve this is through mandatory method of production labelling of all meat and dairy products, underpinned by welfare outcome-based assessments. Method of production labelling is a simple measure to increase transparency. Clear labelling benefits consumers, who are able to correctly identify products from farming systems associated with higher animal welfare. It increases producer confidence in the market for higher welfare meat and dairy products, incentivising new entrants, and stimulating further improvements, and innovation. Method of production labelling works most effectively when products from standard intensive systems are also labelled.

Major retailers have advised us that traceability is good, and that method of production labelling is straight-forward and cost-free for many animal-derived products, particularly chicken and pork products.

Evidence also shows that where producers see a clear market advantage, such as through the use of point of sale labels, they will more readily engage with assurance schemes and on farm assessments. Method of production labels therefore aid compliance.

Eurogroup for Animals calls for:

- *Method of production labelling to become a named topic area for the new Animal Welfare Platform.*
- *An economic impact assessment of method of production labelling of meat and dairy products.*
- *An EU-wide process to agree standard consumer-facing labelling terms for farm systems for all farm animal species.*

SURGICAL PIGLET CASTRATION

Male pigs are routinely castrated without anaesthesia for two main reasons: to prevent the risk of boar taint, an unpleasant smell that can be detected when the meat is cooked, and to minimise sexual aggressive behaviour. Surgical castration is very painful for the piglets, and thus is an animal welfare concern. Additionally, this brutal practice is no longer justified, as there are far less invasive animal welfare friendly alternatives which have been successfully implemented in several countries.

To address these concerns, in 2010 the European Commission, with the support of the Belgian presidency of the Council of the European Union, established the “**European Declaration on alternatives to surgical castration of pigs**”. The Declaration is a voluntary commitment signed by 33 stakeholders of the pork chain (farmers, veterinarians, meat industry, NGOs, governmental bodies, researchers, etc.) **to abandon surgical castration by 1 January 2018**. In December 2015, the expert group in charge of ensuring the good progress of the Declaration prepared and approved a clear roadmap to reach the 2018 deadline. However, early in 2016, the European Commission withdrew its support of the Brussels Declaration to prioritise the outstanding strategic objectives of the Animal Welfare Strategy 2012-15.

Eurogroup for Animals calls for:

- *the Slovakian presidency to urge the European Commission to facilitate the realisation of the action plan 2015-2018 prepared by the expert group with the support of DG SANTE, and to stimulate acceptance of alternatives to the surgical castration of pigs.*

ADDRESSING ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

The excessive and/or inappropriate use of antimicrobials in livestock is one of the driving factors in the development of resistance in bacteria, fungi and parasites^{8,9}. Prescription-only use in farmed animals, and strict national action plans for a generalized reduction in antimicrobial use will be required to contain antimicrobial resistance, which is currently expected to cause 350 million premature deaths in the next 35 years¹⁰.

Slovakia has already taken action to tackle the growing antimicrobial resistance¹¹, and **better animal welfare can play a key role in this fight**. High stocking densities, barren environments, poor hygiene, inadequate ventilation and lighting conditions, painful mutilations, early weaning, and 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. Livestock housing needs to be adapted to the species-specific needs of the animals, and animal management needs to be optimized. More hygiene, more space, the availability of environmental enrichment, and the possibility to express normal behaviours are important aspects of animal welfare that can also promote better health.

Eurogroup for Animals calls for:

- *We call on the Slovakian presidency to show leadership in the fight against antimicrobial use, by setting up a national plan to reduce antimicrobial use in livestock by 50% within a 5-year period. Besides improved herd health and biosecurity measures, several key animal welfare provisions should be incorporated in such a plan. Examples of these measures include, but are not limited to, lower stocking densities, choice of rustic and slower-growing breeds, later weaning, ban on routine mutilations, attentive group management, and provision of enrichment to reduce stress.*



⁸ <http://www.cdc.gov/narms/animals.html>

⁹ <http://www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance/en/>

¹⁰ http://www.ema.europa.eu/docs/en_GB/document_library/Press_release/2009/11/WC500008887.pdf

¹¹ <http://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/slovakia/news/news/2015/11/slovakia-takes-action-against-growing-antibiotic-resistance>

IMPROVING TRANSPARENCY TO CONSUMERS ON HIGHER ANIMAL WELFARE PRODUCTS

The latest special Eurobarometer¹ clearly indicates that European citizens look for information on the way in which farm animals are raised when shopping for food. Regrettably, this information is very limited in most cases, and totally absent in most Member States. Increasing transparency by introducing labels explaining method of production for animal products (extensive vs. intensive, pasture-based, on straw, etc.) can promote sustainable farming methods and animal welfare while also increasing consumer confidence.

Eurogroup for Animals calls for:

- *We call on the Slovakian presidency to support the introduction of Method of Production Labelling for all animal products, following the successful example of eggs.*

MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY: AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE HIGHER ANIMAL WELFARE PRACTICES IN EUROPEAN LIVESTOCK FARMING

The Common Agricultural Policy has been a major force in shaping EU agriculture through its mechanism for financial support, which accounts for nearly 40% of the EU budget. Animal welfare measures were introduced in the CAP on a voluntary basis, over a decade ago. Under Article 5 of Regulation 1305/2013 payments are provided for farmers undertaking animal welfare commitments that go beyond mandatory requirements. During the previous CAP period 2007-2013, only 0.1% of the CAP budget was spent on animal welfare.

The information made available by Member States about the current CAP 2014-2020 shows that nearly half of them do not provide for any animal welfare payments and the rest provide for a minuscule proportion of the overall budget. In the Slovakian rural development plan 2014-2020, 5.19% of the overall budget is allocated for animal welfare measures¹², which is above the average of other Member States.

The complete lack of intention on the part of several Member States to help improve standards for animal agriculture comes at a time when EU citizens are increasingly aware about animal welfare issues in livestock farming, and are calling for an end to animal suffering.¹ . If the CAP is to drive sustainability and maintain higher levels of animal welfare standards for animal products available in Europe, **Member States should increase the proportion of rural development spending on animal welfare.**

Eurogroup for Animals calls on the Slovakian presidency to:

- *Introduce a 5% required minimum spending of the CAP budget for animal welfare. In addition, the reporting mechanism should be improved and be accompanied by detailed information on how CAP payments are actually spent on animal welfare, and their expected outcomes.*

¹² http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/sk/factsheet_en.pdf

CLONING OF ANIMALS FOR FOOD

Cloning is a technique of artificial reproduction to create identical animals which is inefficient, with very low rates of success (10% in cattle, 6% in pigs). More noticeable, animals experience high welfare concerns and suffer numerous health problems which have been highlighted in numerous EFSA reports.

In December 2013 the European Commission published legislative proposals to regulate the cloning of animals for food and the sale and import of products from animal clones and their offspring. The proposals call for a provisional ban on cloning, however it does not go far enough. The European Parliament subsequently adopted their position back in September 2015. The Council has as yet not taken up discussions and they need to stop delaying and take action now!

Eurogroup for Animals calls for:

- *The Slovakian presidency to initiate discussions at Council level to take up the cloning issue and to support the European Parliament's position calling for an immediate permanent EU ban on the cloning of animals for food production, on the sale and imports of food products from cloned animals and their descendants.*



WILDLIFE

USE OF WILD ANIMALS IN CIRCUS

Opinion polls carried out in several Member States and countries have shown that there is increasing doubt about the ethics of using live animals, particularly of non-domesticated species, for public entertainment. For instance, a 2010 government consultation in United Kingdom found that 94% of the public supported a ban on wild animal acts in England and Wales; and the consultation in Scotland in 2014 produced 98% of support for a ban.

This is reflected in the national legislation of 18 Member States that have already adopted limitations on using wild animals in circuses on the ground of animal health, biodiversity, public security, ethics or animal welfare. In addition, several European towns have either banned all circus animal acts or wild animal acts.

However, circuses belonging to countries or municipalities that adopted restrictions can move to destinations where they are still allowed to perform.

Consequently, only a coordinated approach among Member States would guarantee the end of these outmoded entertainments and a coherent and effective solution to the physical and emotional suffering of wild animals in circuses and to the related health and conservation risks.

Eurogroup for Animals calls for:

- *the Slovakian presidency to actively promote and support the Parliamentary Resolution to prohibit the movement of wild animals in circuses within and between Member States.*



Wildlife trafficking¹³ has become one of the world's most profitable organized crime. Recent reports indicate a global surge in poaching and illegal wildlife trade, which is now at unprecedented levels for some species, and poses a serious threat to biodiversity and sustainable development. The EU has an important role to play in tackling this traffic, as Europe is currently a destination market and a hub for trafficking in transit to other regions.

This is why on **26 February 2016**, the European Commission adopted a **Communication on the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking 2020 (COM(2016)87 final)**¹⁴ which sets out a comprehensive blueprint for joined-up efforts to fight wildlife crime inside the EU, and for strengthening the EU's role in the global fight against these illegal activities. The plan has three main strands – greater enforcement, better cooperation, and more effective prevention. The Action Plan will finally 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. The EU Action Plan needs now to be discussed by Member States to obtain in June 2016 the Council endorsement.

Eurogroup for Animals calls for:

- *the Slovakian presidency to promote the prompt enforcement of the EU Action Plan Against Wildlife Trafficking by the Member States, through the allocation of appropriate financial and human resources*
- *Eurogroup for Animals recommends that the Action Plan is supported as soon as possible by appropriate legislative provisions relating to wildlife trafficking during the upcoming review of the current EU legislative framework for tackling environmental crime, and that the EC and MS involve civil society organisations in identifying strategies for the enforcement of existing rules.*
- *We call the Slovakian presidency to promote the adoption of EU-wide legislation to regulate the trade of exotic pets, as a necessary measure to facilitate the reduction of the demand for and supply of illegal wildlife products (objective 1.1 of the Action Plan). Positive Lists of allowed species that are not traded in violation of foreign law, and/or that could not have a negative impact on the environment, on public health or on the health of other animals - as have been already adopted in Belgium and the Netherlands - provide clarity to owners and enforcement agencies, creates less regulatory bureaucracy for governments and are preventive models at their core. Consequently, we call the Slovakian presidency to contribute towards the dissemination of information on the Positive list system, as an example of best practice that could be adopted also at EU level.*



¹³ Defined as international and non-international illegal trade in wild animals and plants and derived products, and closely interlinked offences such as poaching

¹⁴ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52016DC0087&from=EN>

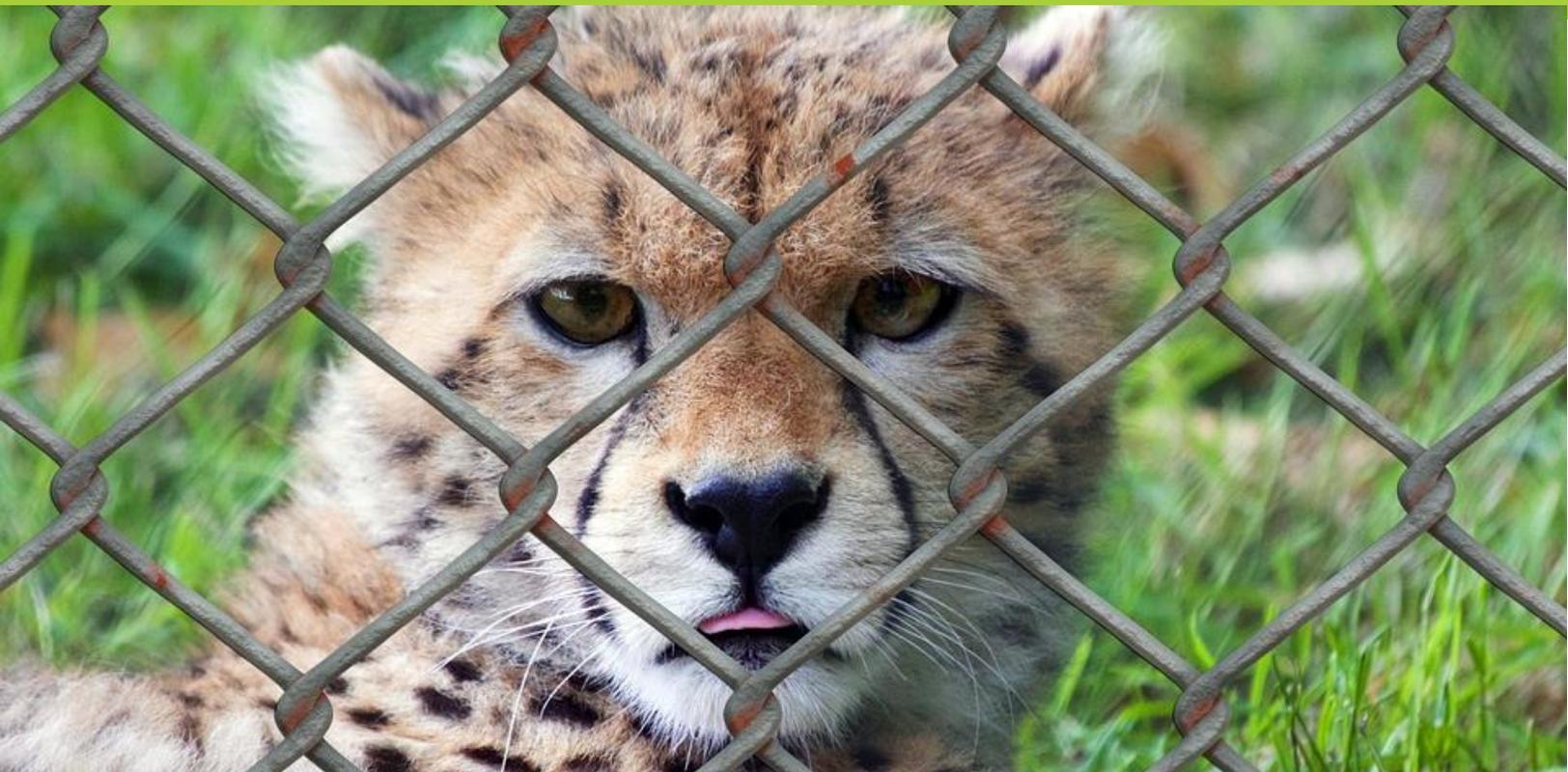
The EU Zoo Directive (Council Directive 1999/22/EC) aims to ensure that zoos in Member States serve to promote the conservation of biodiversity through species protection and conservation, whilst also fulfilling their role in public education, and/or scientific research. However, there is overwhelming evidence that there are serious inconsistencies in, and sometimes a complete absence of, the implementation and enforcement of the requirements of the EU Zoo Directive across all EU Member States.

In July 2015 the Commission published the EU Zoo Directive Good Practices Document¹⁵ to help Member States to ensure that zoos provide adequate accommodation, enrichment and husbandry for the animals, appropriate veterinary and nutritional care, prevent the escape of animals contribute to research and educate the public on biodiversity.

In June 2016 the European Commission started a comprehensive evaluation of the Zoo Directive, as part of its Regulatory Fitness and Performance (REFIT) initiative.

Eurogroup for Animals calls for:

- *the Slovakian presidency to contribute towards the dissemination and sharing - possibly through workshops and conferences - of the EU Zoo Good Practices document amongst all Member States, to ensure their prompt uptake,*
- *the Slovakian presidency to support a constructive dialogue and engagement of Commission, Member States and stakeholders in the process of the evaluation (REFIT) of the Zoo Directive, to support the improvement and better enforcement of the Zoo Directive as an expected result of the EC REFIT process*



¹⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/pdf/EU_Zoos_Directive_Good_Practices.pdf

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) entered into force in 1975 and now has 178 Parties. All EU Member States and the European Union itself are parties to the Convention.

The aim of CITES is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. It covers about 35000 species, which are listed in three Appendices, according to the degree of protection they need. All import, export, re-export and introduction from the sea of species covered by the Convention has to be authorized through a licensing system. Controlling the trade in wildlife and ensuring the implementation and enforcement of CITES not only entails conservation benefits but also improve the welfare of wildlife species that are traded as it includes requirements for the live transportation and keeping of animals.

The EU implements CITES through *Council Regulation 338/97/EC*. This legislative act incorporates controls on the sale and possession of wild animals, birds and plants found within the territory of the EU as well as CITES species.

Yet, despite the existence of this legislation, the EU remains a major destination market for illegal wildlife products.

The forthcoming 17th Conference of the Parties to CITES that will meet in September 2016 in Johannesburg, South Africa, is the first CoP at which the UE will participate as member of the Convention, playing then an unprecedented important role in the decision making process. The Commission will present proposals for listing species on the CITES Appendices and measures aimed at increasing protection for species in serious decline and clearly affected by trade.

Eurogroup for Animals calls for:

- *In preparation of and during the forthcoming CITES CoP17, we call on the Slovakian presidency to urge Member States to do all they can to solicit wide support for the listing of Barbary Macaque (*Macaca sylvanus*) on CITES Annex I. In addition, Member States should be urged to:*
- *agree with and support the proposals from Africa Elephant Coalition members to transfer those population of African elephants (*Loxodonta Africana*) currently in Appendix II into Appendix I, and to promote domestic bans on ivory trade across all CITES Parties,*
- *to support the proposal to list all populations of African lions (*Panthera leo*) in Appendix I*
- *to promote and adopt a precautionary approach to the trade in hunting trophies from endangered species, and to promote the removal of exceptions for permits for all hunting trophies from CITES-listed species.*
- *to support initiatives to improve the welfare of live CITES-listed animals in trade.*

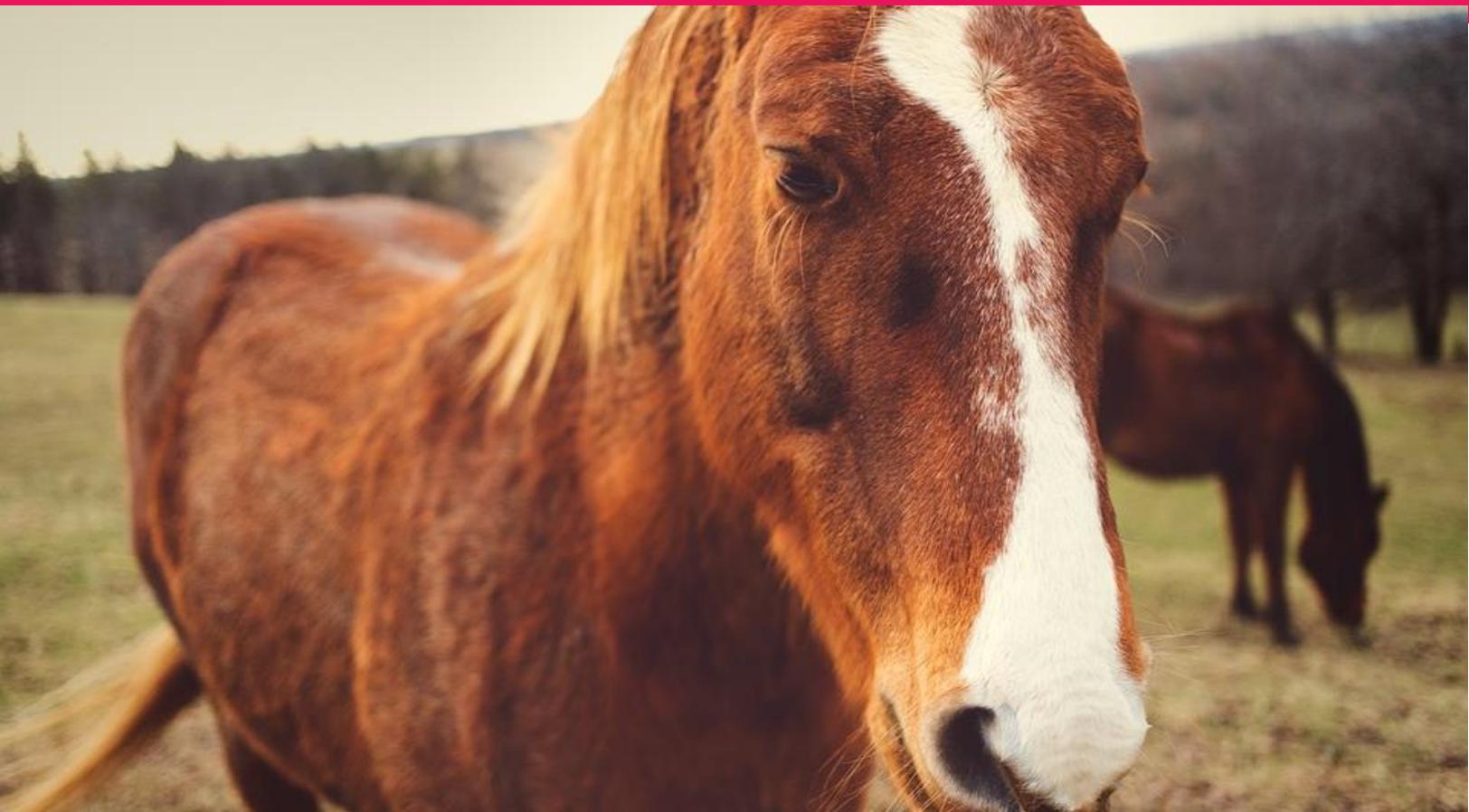
EQUINES

USE OF WILD ANIMALS IN CIRCUS

Despite the many differences between the roles and perceptions of equines across the Union, the welfare problems that they face are often remarkably similar. Keeping in unsuitable environments, is as likely to affect a horse in Bulgaria as a donkey in Germany. Concerns on neglect are just as likely to be raised in the United Kingdom as in Cyprus. It is clear that no Member State is entirely free of welfare issues, and yet many of these challenges stem from ignorance and a lack of knowledge.

Eurogroup for Animals calls for:

- *Given the multifarious uses of equines across the EU, and within their own lifetimes - from elite sports athletes, to their use in therapies, to working equids on farms, we call on the Slovakian presidency to seek support within the Council for a forthcoming Resolution of the European Parliament which will propose a range of non-legislative measures, designed to spread best practices on the responsible ownership and care of equidae.*
- *These involve:*
- *The dissemination of basic guidance for the care and ownership of an equid, from birth to end of life, based on the Five Freedoms*
- *The use of innovative funding mechanisms to reward responsible on-farm ownership of equines, especially with regards to Small and Subsistence Farms (SSFs)*
- *Empowering consumers/tourists, enabling them to reward those businesses that use equines in a responsible way*



ANIMALS IN RESEARCH, TESTING AND EDUCATION

ENFORCEMENT OF DIRECTIVE ON THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS USED FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES: 2010/63/EU

Since January 2013, Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes has applied since transposition into Member State national legislation. There will be no improvement to animal welfare without proper and full implementation and enforcement of the Directive across all Member States. According to the statistical data submitted by the State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic to the European Commission for the Statistical report¹⁶ published in 2013, 15717 animals were used for scientific purposes in 2011 in Slovakia.

Eurogroup for Animals calls for:

- *It is important that Slovakia plays their role in Directive 2010/63/EU to be implemented and enforced to its fullest such that it promotes improved animal welfare, faster and increased development and uptake of 3Rs, and improved quality of science:*
- *Slovakia to contribute towards the dissemination of information and sharing of best practices amongst all Member States to ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of the Directive by urging Council and Commission to continuously improve the level of sharing of best practices in the EU.*
- *Active promotion and dissemination of the guidance developed at EU level. Slovakia would benefit from translating the guidance so it could be taken up fully by the user community, veterinarians and inspectors.*
- *Support a constructive dialogue and engagement of Commission, Member States and stakeholders in the process of the foreseen review of the Directive, Article 58, possibly through workshops and conferences.*

ALTERNATIVES: MEMBER STATES COMMITMENTS

Article 47 of Directive 2010/63/EU, States that the Member States shall contribute to the development and validation of alternative approaches. Eurogroup for Animals acknowledges the activities presently undertaken in Slovakia and we welcome the openness of Slovakia on their commitments to the requirement in Article 47 of Directive 2010/63/EU, through publication of their actions voluntarily on the Commission website¹⁷. It is essential work on this issue continues and Slovakia have the opportunity to stand out on the issue during their presidency.

Eurogroup for Animals calls for:

- *Active contribution to the promotion, funding, development and uptake of alternative approaches, as required in Article 47, so as to replace, where possible, animal testing with alternative approaches. We invite the presidency to promote alternatives in a joint conference organised at an EU level with Eurogroup for Animals to promote a comprehensive EU strategy to evidently decrease animal use for research, testing and education.*

¹⁶ Seventh Report from the Commission on the Statistics on the number of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes in the Member States of the European Union COM(2013)859/final

¹⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/3r/advance_en.htm

TRADE

THE TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT (TTIP)

The TTIP process will be in a politically decisive period during the second half of 2016. The EU will need to ensure that time pressure does not overcome the substance of the deal. TTIP, if and when concluded, is set to create the largest free trade area in the world. Further, it has a potential to set or inspire global standards and regulations. Therefore, careful consideration and guidance from the Council is necessary. Reduction or elimination of tariffs and non-tariff measures in animal products needs to be primarily guided by ensuring the quality of products and upholding the values and principles that citizens hold and that are embedded in the EU aquis and standards, including those related to animal welfare.

Eurogroup for Animals calls for:

- *Inclusion of effective measures that preserve in practice the ability of the EU to retain its existing animal welfare legislation and to introduce new legislation in this field.*
- *Carefully worded conditional liberalisation of farm animal products and sustaining legitimate non-tariff measures.*
- *Strong enforcement and adoption of US best practices on wildlife provisions and more work on research animals in the TTIP negotiations to safeguard animal welfare.*

EU-JAPAN, EU-MERCOSUR

The second half of 2016 will see an intensification of negotiations with Japan and Mercosur. EU-Japan negotiations are a unique process with European agriculture being on the offensive. While the potential of the trade opening may be of value to European producers, this should not be done on the expense of decreased animal welfare through intensification of farming. Additionally, EU should use this opportunity to deliver comprehensive animal welfare provisions to reflect economic, moral and environmental dimensions of animal welfare together with animal live and health aspects. Japan's detrimental whaling and fishing practices should also be addressed in the negotiations.

Mercosur countries are highly competitive in animal products. However, their advantage stems partially from their weak animal welfare laws and regulations. Generous market access offers by the EU without any conditionality may disrupt the level playing field and threaten existing animal welfare standards and block future improvements.

Eurogroup for Animals calls for:

- *Negotiating towards animal welfare provisions encompassing multiple dimensions of animal welfare.*
- *Ensuring upholding animal welfare standards on both imports and exports.*
- *Exert pressure on Japan to cease activities detrimental to preservation of marine wildlife and welfare of certain species, especially whales.*
- *Market access offers that reflect different levels of animal welfare protection and proper consideration of conditional liberalisation.*

NEGOTIATIONS TO BE LAUNCHED (TURKEY, AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND)

The period of the Slovakian presidency will see the launch of several planned negotiating processes. From the animal welfare perspective, Turkey, Australia and New Zealand are of utmost importance. The Council's guidance with regard to these negotiations should include a strong language on animal welfare.

Turkey's level of protection and practices are to be considered when newly negotiating an agricultural chapter. Moreover, these negotiations should ensure ways and means to cease EU exports of live animals to Turkey and to Middle East.

Australia and New Zealand, both members of Cairns group of main exporters of agricultural products, enacted useful animal welfare laws in some areas. Therefore, both bilateral negotiations present an opportunity to set up strong partnerships reflecting the intrinsic linkages between handling of animals and international trade in animals and animal products.

Eurogroup for Animals calls for:

- *Proper evaluation and consideration of animal welfare in agricultural negotiations with Turkey.*
- *Creating ways and means for transports of live animals to be ceased.*
- *Building partnerships on animal welfare with Australia and New Zealand.*

IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS

Next to negotiating and launching new processes, proper implementation of existing free trade agreements is insufficient and/or has a backlog in enforcement or institutional set-up.

Eurogroup for Animals calls for:

- *Review of existing FTAs, evaluation of their implementation and cumulative effects on animal welfare.*
- *The Council to ensure that EU-Vietnam FTA and its provision on technical assistance on animal welfare is properly implemented.*
- *Lessons are learned from existing agreements with regards to enforcement mechanisms of trade and sustainable development chapters.*
- *The Council's Trade Policy Committee to conduct a discussion on the linkages between international trade and animal welfare.*



EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT BETTER EUROPEAN LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF ANIMAL RELATED LEGISLATION IS A PRE-CONDITION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO WORKING WITH ALL EUROPEAN DECISION-MAKERS TO MAKE THIS A REALITY, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING OUR PROPOSALS WITH THE PRESIDENCY AND HOPE THAT TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD

A EUROPE THAT CARES FOR ANIMALS

**EUROGROUP
FOR ANIMALS**