

Issue 20 | July 2021

**EUROGROUP
FOR ANIMALS**

MAGAZINE



THEME

**NO ANIMAL LEFT BEHIND:
THE FINAL COUNTDOWN!**

**NO
ANIMAL
LEFT
BEHIND**

INTERVIEW

Meet Jytte Guteland

**JOINING
FORCES**

to End the Cage Age

**MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

Follow our work
on animal protection

4

THEME:
No Animal
Left Behind:
the final
countdown!



© Ohwarte Klattki

8

INTERVIEW:
Meet Jytte
Guteland, MEP
and member
of the Social
Democrats
in Sweden



13

JOINING FORCES:
to End the
Cage Age



CONTENTS

3 EDITORIAL

4 **THEME**

8 INTERVIEW

11 ANIMAL NEWS
IN EUROPE -
AND BEYOND

What happened in
the past three months

13 JOINING FORCES

16 MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

Follow our work
on animal welfare

19 GET TO KNOW US

21 OUR MEMBERS

22 SUPPORT US

© Eurogroup For Animals July 2021

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

Design: BakOS DESIGN

Images copyrights belong to Eurogroup
for Animals, are free of rights or
accredited to their owner.

EDITORIAL

FRESH HOPE FOR EU ANIMALS

Last June we made history for farm animals. During our Annual General Meeting the Commission responded positively to the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) End the Cage Age and plans to phase out cages in livestock systems by 2027 and to introduce new legislation by the end of 2023. This was an incredible moment for our movement and me personally. Can you imagine what this means for all those hens, rabbits, pigs and other animals who are spending their lives crammed in a cage? It just gives me goosebumps to already picture all those millions of hens flapping their wings, rabbits jumping and running, and sows moving around.

Over the past 10 years we have been fighting so hard to obtain long-lasting changes for animals at EU level. Our relentless efforts are paying off. We

can't take anything for granted till the change has been implemented but we're certainly going in the right direction. As you will read in this magazine, a lot of positive change is underway. Let me share two other good news.

Thanks to the efforts of MEP Jytte Guteland the European Parliament made a strong statement for the phasing out of laboratory animals used in testing, science and education. During a plenary debate, MEPs from across the political spectrum stressed that despite the promises in the animal experimentation directive, not enough progress has been made. This debate will continue in September.

Last but not least, at the June Agrifish Council meeting, 12 Member States called on the Commission to intro-



Reineke Hameleers
CEO, Eurogroup
for Animals

duce a ban on fur farming. Upon the initiative of Austria and the Netherlands, many Ministers echoed the overwhelming opinion of EU citizens that this cruel and unnecessary industry should belong to the past. They stressed that the pandemic has clearly demonstrated that the immense public health risks don't justify fur farming to continue any longer. We need to build on this momentum to convince the Commission that it's high time to act.

What encouraging news to start the summer season! I would like to thank you all for your relentless support and commitment to the animal cause. Our movement is going from strength to strength.

Have a wonderful summer and enjoy reading the magazine!





NO ANIMAL LEFT BEHIND: THE FINAL COUNTDOWN!

2021 offers a very important window of opportunity for animal welfare in the EU. We have until October to persuade the European Commission to undertake a complete revision of ALL legislations which affect farm animals in Europe.

Eurogroup for Animals, together with its 79 members across Europe, launched the [No Animal Left Behind](#) campaign back in March 2021. Europe's animal welfare laws were introduced over the last 40 years, but as countless investigations by Eurogroup for Animals' Members have shown over and over again, they are not protecting billions of animals.

Hungry, malnourished or thirsty animals, physically restricted and confined, without natural light or fresh air, too hot or too cold, living in preventable pain every day. The list of legal violations of animal welfare seems endless and cruel.

With 7 key demands, the campaign sheds light on the failures and poor enforcement of the current animal welfare legislations and calls on the European Commission to commit to revising them, leaving no animal behind.

This campaign is going to culminate on October 4th, World Animal Day.

WHY IS THE TIMING RIGHT?

The [No Animal Left Behind](#) campaign comes at a crucial time, when citizens' calls to act on animal welfare, climate and health crisis have become louder and louder.

The European Commission is currently assessing the animal welfare legislation to evaluate whether it is fit for purpose. This review is part of the Farm to Fork Strategy, an initiative with the overarching aim of making European food systems fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly. The long-overdue review is the first of its kind for animal welfare legislation.

Europe's animal welfare laws are rarely enforced correctly and there are serious gaps which leave millions of animals unprotected. We must make sure a full-scale review takes place, that our demands for the best possible welfare standards are heard, and that no animal is left behind.

A review like this is rare, and we really need you with us to make it happen. We will be competing with loud and powerful industry voices who don't want to see stricter and better enforced welfare laws for animals. We can't let them win!

OUR KEY DEMANDS

Farm animal welfare laws must do more than protect every animal from neglect and cruelty, and minimise their suffering, they should actively promote a positive state of health and well-being.



① GOOD HEALTH

Every animal should be healthy, fit and whole: No animal should be deliberately mutilated: its tail or beak chopped short; its body so overstretched it cannot stand straight. But billions live in preventable pain every day, breathless, injured, diseased, in misery. Animals deserve to feel strong and full of life, to run and swim and peck and play. It's not enough to exist, they should thrive.



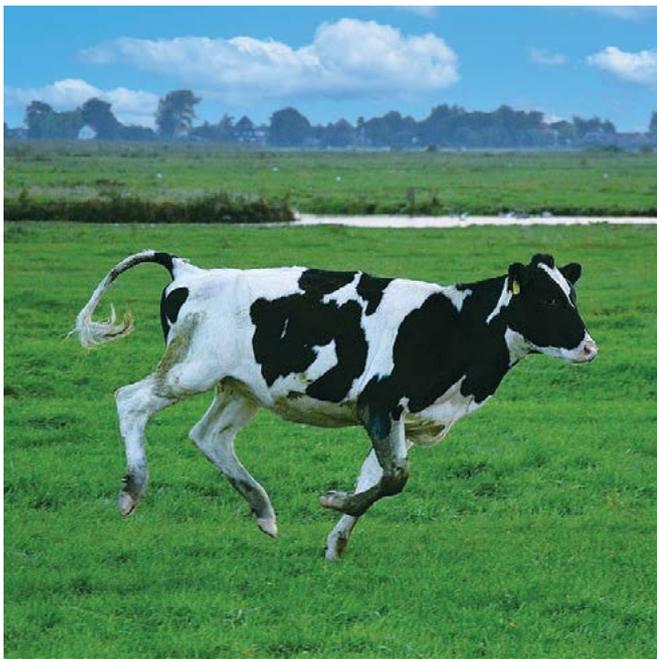
② A HAPPY LIFE

Every animal should have the space to thrive: No animal should be physically restricted, without natural light or fresh air, too hot or too cold, or living in filth. They deserve to move freely and safely and to rest in comfort. When animals have control over how and where they spend their time (building nests or sunbathing, exploring or snoozing, choosing their companion for the day, having shelter and shade from the elements) their well-being increases. Feeling safe from harm, interested in life and able to swim or run.



③ NO LIVE TRANSPORT

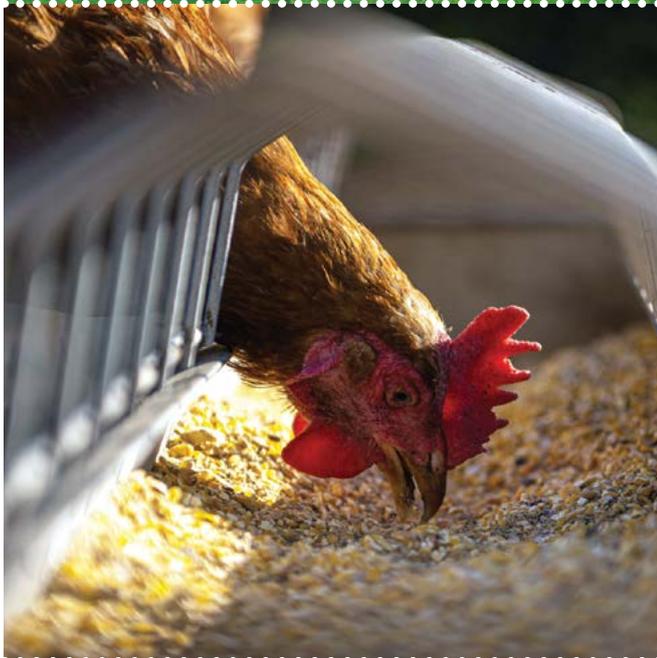
End live transport: Being herded into noisy cramped trucks and driven for hours, days, even weeks is an unnatural and highly stressful experience for farm animals. Every welfare expert is opposed to it. Animals are taken from everything that is familiar to them, and forced to endure long periods without rest, food and water, and many arrive at their destination exhausted and injured. We demand that the EU bans all long distance journeys and introduces bespoke rules for pigs, cattle, sheep, rabbits, chickens, etc. to limit their suffering on all other unavoidable journeys.



④ NATURAL BEHAVIOURS

Every animal should be able to express themselves:

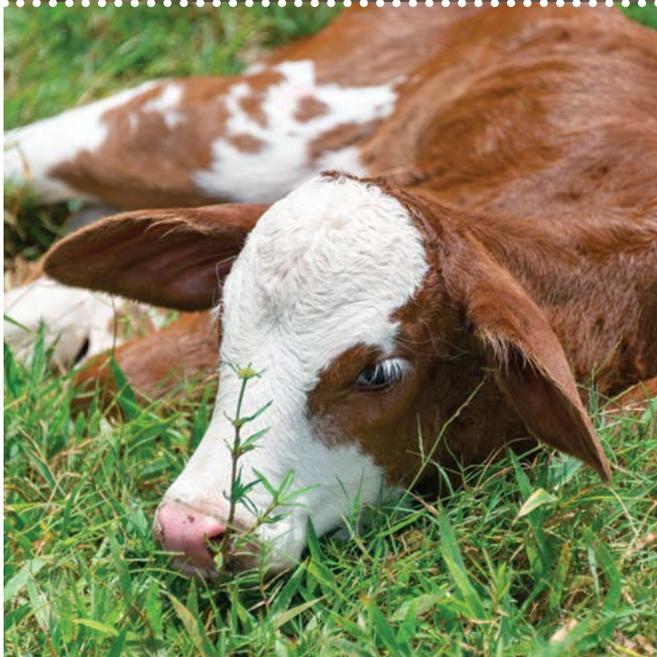
No animal should be prevented from showing natural behaviours and be kept confined without choice. Boredom and stress spill into frustration and aggression, and when there's no escape, every day is miserable. Pigs and geese should be able to do what pigs and geese love to do. And be given the chance to groom and bond with favourite pals, or to find a quiet safe spot, or to explore new toys and tools, so individuals can express their personality too.



⑤ GOOD NUTRITION

Every animal should enjoy nutritious food and clean water:

No animal should be kept hungry, malnourished or thirsty. They deserve to enjoy nutritious, wholesome food and easy access to fresh clean water. Most would naturally spend many hours rooting, grazing, browsing, foraging and feeding. Encouraging them to express these behaviours, through thoughtful husbandry, is vital to their well-being. A scoop of concentrated, industrial feed delivered once or twice a day brings little but boredom and frustration and empty hours.



⑥ POSITIVE MENTAL EXPERIENCES

Every animal deserves to enjoy life: No animal is a machine, without feelings or curiosity or needs. But billions are treated as "units of production" and squeezed and stacked together like batteries being charged. They should be cared for as the sentient, smart, pleasure-seeking creatures they truly are, and given every chance to enjoy their lives. They deserve living spaces which add pleasure, interest and choice to the everyday, feed curious minds, and encourage connections and well-being.



7 EXPANDING THE CIRCLE OF COMPASSION TO INCLUDE ALL SPECIES

Every animal deserves protection and care: The more we discover about animals and their complex, intriguing lives, the more shocked we should be at how we have treated them in the past. And the more determined we should be to ensure they live a good life. Our laws need to do more than protect the welfare of all farm animals. They should promote health, well-being and compassion. Because animals deserve no less. Let's leave none behind.

THEY ARE WITH US:



Tilly Metz

Member of the European Parliament (Greens/ EFA)



Manuel Bompard

Member of the European Parliament (GUE/ NGL)



Maria Noichl

Member of the European Parliament (S&D)



Sylvia Spurek

Member of the European Parliament (Greens/ EFA)



Francisco Guerrero

Member of the European Parliament (Greens/ EFA)



Anja Hazekamp

Member of the European Parliament (GUE/ NGL)



Manuela Ripa

Member of the European Parliament (Greens/ EFA)

Will you also add your voice so we reach enough supporters to be heard by the European Commission?

ADD YOUR SIGNATURE AT
NoAnimalLeftBehind.eu



INTERVIEW

MEET JYTTE GUTELAND

Member of the European Parliament,
Member of the Social Democrats in Sweden.

How did it all start? When did you realise you wanted to fight for animal welfare?

I have always loved animals. It all started with an unconditional love for cats, dogs, horses and then it was extended to all sorts of animals. I had a dog when I was growing up and he was my best friend: having a dog was my biggest wish as a kid.

How would you describe the situation of the animals at the moment?

I would say we live in a time of paradox. On the one hand, we have a more committed society today and people are quite concerned: the younger generation is very committed not to eat as much meat as before and to take better care of animals. This is a very positive development! On the other hand, there is still a situation that needs to be addressed for many animals in the European Union whose daily lives are not regulated by any law and who suffer in many different ways: farm animal, animals in science, pets, and wild animals.

How would you explain this dual reality: on the one hand animal welfare is very important to citizens and on the other hand, so many animals are neglected or even tortured?

I think there are many reasons for that. The public is committed regarding animal welfare and would like to see a fast and drastic change. Still, animal welfare remains a low priority on the political agenda. There should be a clearer link between citizens' concerns and the decisions taken in the European Parliament. Yet, the End the Cage Age initiative was a success in terms of participatory democracy. It is also obvious to me that in the farming sector there is an economic force that does not help animals at all and that is more working in the opposite direction.

For a long time we haven't seen any real progress for animal welfare legislations at EU level. 2021 is a very promising year, a turning point for farm animals. Can you explain what is on the horizon?

2021 is indeed a window of opportunity. In the context of the Farm to Fork strategy, the Commission has promised an overview of the animal welfare legislation: it will be an important moment to make sure things are happening. There is also the report from the Committee of Inquiry on the Protection of Animals during Transport (ANIT) coming up. Finally, I believe that the pandemic has allowed people to understand the negative consequences of intensive farming and the fact that putting animals in cramped spaces implies a significant threat to human health.

Is there a risk we may not see improved legislations as the economic argument may not be in favour of improving the law?

We absolutely need improvements. And I can assure you that there will be many Members in the European Parliament that will fight and push the Commission to come up with better proposals. I think the risk would be that change will not be radical enough at first, with some species being left behind. However, the Commission will feel the pressure, and we need to continue pushing for better regulation. Thanks to the [No Animal Left Behind](#) campaign and its seven proposals. I feel like we have a very strong movement to encourage the Commission to act.

Where do you see the need for improvement in the legislation? What are the key issues the revised legislation should address?

The animal density is an important issue, both for chickens and dairy cows. The overcrowded spaces are certainly problematic from a health perspective. I also believe we need to do more when it comes to animal transport. We have seen so many horrific examples which prove that we cannot continue like this: long traffic jams, transports that are blocked where the animals do not get food, water etc. In addition, unweaned animals continue to be transported along with pregnant animals.



📷 MEP Jytte Guteland with her dog Vilda

There are so many things we need to do, starting with stricter rules on animals that should not be transported at all. Ultimately, animal transports should definitely be stopped: we should instead only be transporting meat and carcasses.

Many species are not protected by the legislation at the moment (fish, ducks, geese, dairy cows, rabbits), how come these animals have not been covered and what needs to happen now?

For me, it was actually a shock when I understood that dairy cows are not protected enough, even if we have a very high demand for milk. I come from a country where it is well-known that cows must be out grazing grass, and this is regulated by law. Nevertheless, I also see that historic improvements regarding animal welfare have not been followed by major progresses: past improvements are actually being questioned. I hope that when the Commission will be doing its overview, it will see how absurd it is that we have groups of animals left behind and that it will propose a horizontal protection.

What can we do to make sure that this new legislation will be really ambitious?

I think that we need to coordinate and set a strong foundation. We definitely have a good starting point with the seven demands from the [No Animal Left Behind](#) campaign. We need to abolish the cruelest practices towards animals and define a priority list. On top of this, I would ask for better

regulation for dairy cows since I believe they are big animals that should be outdoors as much as possible, grazing grass which is their natural behaviour. Chickens and birds are also in a very difficult situation, this is why the achievements of the ECI End the Cage Age are so important.

Opinion polls show that ending animal experiments is a priority for EU citizens. Nearly three quarters (72%) of European citizens agree that the EU should set binding targets and deadlines to phase out testing on animals. What's your opinion on this?

Today's scientific landscape is not the same as 50 years ago. Today we have the knowledge and technology to plan for human-centred science, where animals are no longer the gold standard. But to get there, the Commission needs to set out a series of steps to reach concrete objectives that replace step by step the use of animals in specific areas.

Zoom in on the ECI End the Cage Age. Any comment on the amazing decision voted by the Commission earlier this month?

The ECI End the Cage Age collected 1.4 million signatures in the Union! There is therefore a huge popular support for stronger animal welfare in the Union. The decency of our society is determined by how well we treat the most defenceless. The use of cages in livestock farming must therefore be phased out urgently!

There's a sort of trade off between competitiveness of the EU in the global arena and striving toward quality and high standards. How do you look at that trade off? Is it real?

I get a bit angry when I hear this. We are talking about sentient beings who can feel pain and emotions. Suffering should be avoided at any cost: this is our moral responsibility. Having said that, I believe that the European Union is a global player, probably the world's most influential one when it comes to climate issues, environmental protection, and consumer standards. Therefore, it seems perfectly natural that the European Union should set a new global standard when it comes to animal welfare.

Improving animal welfare should go hand in hand with the reduction of production and consumption of animal products. What's your opinion on this?

It should indeed go hand in hand, because we cannot continue eating meat the way we do. Meat consumption must be reduced: for the sake of the climate, the animals but also in order to improve human health. Of course, during this transition, the farming sector should be supported. To give you an example: I met a farmer, he was in his 60s and he told me that his father, who was a farmer as well, had 70 pigs while he now has 700 pigs. His younger neighbour, the new farmer generation, has over 3,000 pigs. This is not sustainable!

Everyone must realise this. It is neither sustainable for our planet and animals, our farmers, or the economy. It is a striking example of a race to the bottom, whereas we need to get the EU to act towards a race to the top, becoming a global leader on sustainable food production.

This year there is fresh hope, citizens can act and influence this important revision of the legislation: could you tell us how exactly?

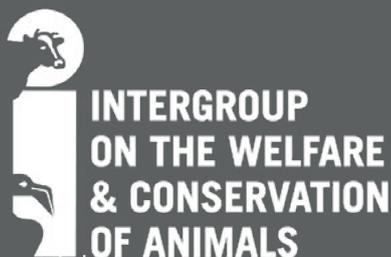
It is important to encourage the European Parliament: sending emails to your Member, and using social media to spread information, I believe that the voice of the people is the lobby voice that we need to hear louder.

What would be your message to Commissioner Kyriakides for the animals and the revision of the legislation?

Commissioner Kyriakides is in a unique position to really change the lives of millions of individuals. She can become a historic figure who makes a real difference regarding animal protection. I really hope that she succeeds, because a lot is at stake for our beloved animals.

Tens of millions of Europeans have found comfort in their pets during the months of lockdown. In this period of remote working, do you have any “pet colleagues”?

Yes, my dog Vilda has been an important member of my team during the months of lockdown. She usually keeps busy with her own projects but is very good at reminding me when it is time to go outside in between all those digital meetings.



BETTER LEGISLATION FOR ANIMALS IN THE EU

Over the last decade it has become more and more evident that large parts of EU legislation on the welfare of farm animals are outdated in the light of new scientific knowledge and that many of its provisions are too vague to allow for a common understanding and proper implementation. Some farmed species such as dairy cows, turkeys, rabbits and fish and many more are not protected by specific legislation. All this hinders good animal welfare and leads to distortion of competition.

Compliance with the animal welfare related legislation has its costs but currently they are unequally distributed along the agricultural food chain leaving it mainly to the farmers to cover them. This creates an unfair market return for investments that farmers make for animal welfare.

Given these shortcomings that were repeatedly highlighted by NGOs, EU citizens and the European Parliament, in 2020 the European Commission launched the Fitness Check of EU legislation on the welfare of farm animals to assess its performance and relevance. This process will pave the way for a revision of selected pieces of legislation, presumably:



Andreas Erler,
Senior Political Adviser

Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and Council Directive 98/58/EC concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes, as well as other Commission initiatives in the area. New legislative proposals are expected for 2023.

This process reflects also one of the outstanding objectives of the EU's Farm to Fork Strategy to take actions on animal welfare for a more sustainable agriculture.

The European Parliament has played a significant role in triggering these very positive developments and is currently proactively contributing to the evaluation of EU legislation related to farm animals. For this it has created the temporary Committee of Inquiry on the Protection of Animals during Transport (ANIT) which will deliver its findings by the end of the year. The European Parliament own initiative report on the Farm to Fork Strategy, as well as the implementation report on on-farm animal welfare, both due to be adopted during the second half of the year, will be the European Parliament's official input for the Fitness check assessment and the upcoming revision process.

IN EUROPE

#Act4Pets

UPDATE OF THE LEGISLATION ON ZOOLOGICAL CENTRES APPLICABLE TO COMPANION ANIMALS IN SPAIN

Animal shelters, pet shops, and the like are considered "zoological nucleus" and must comply with the Spanish legislation that governs the authorisation procedure. Unfortunately, the only state legislation on this subject that is currently in effect dates back to 1975 and is out of date, harming companion animals.

However, this legislation applicable to companion animals in Spain will finally be updated. This step is critical for them because it will define what a zoological nucleus is, what conditions it must meet, and what activities can be carried out depending on the type and authorisation of the centre. These ramifications could be significant, as it will be possible to demand that only those with a zoological centre authorisation for that function can sell animals from that point forward. This is one of the claims that our Member Organisation [ANDA](#) has been requesting for more than 15 years.

The adoption of the European Regulation on Animal Health created the possibility of including this matter within the central administration's legislative powers. The General Directorate of Animal Rights has now announced its intention to take on this significant legislative task.

#Act4Wildlife

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ADOPTED AN AMBITIOUS REPORT ON THE EU BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY



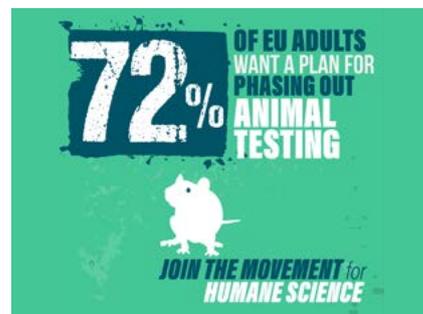
Back in May 2020 Eurogroup for Animals [welcomed](#) the [EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030](#) as a key delivery of the EU Green Deal, and then wholeheartedly welcomed MEP César Luena's (S&D) [INI Own Initiative Report](#), which was adopted by the ENVI Committee at the end of May 2021.

Thanks also to our [Stop Pandemics? Start here](#) campaign, the joined efforts of our Members, and the support of many MEPs, most of our recommendations to block amendments on the ENVI report were taken into account, and June's vote in Plenary clearly demonstrated the European Parliament's support to ensure the effective implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030.

The strategy has the potential to bring the necessary change to protect our planet's biodiversity, ecosystems and environment, and to prevent future pandemics and spread of zoonotic diseases, ensuring that the tools and resources are made available to make that ambition a reality, with important effects on animal protection.

#Act4LabAnimals

HOW CLOSE IS THE EU TO ANIMAL-FREE SCIENCE?



During the last year, the pandemic saw unprecedented funding made available to scientists, who rushed from across a range of disciplines to study the coronavirus. Some of this research involved the use of animals.

The closure of universities and other laboratories around the world also led to the halting of many non-COVID related projects and to the consequent immediate killing of large numbers of animals. Also of concern, the EU ban on animal testing for cosmetics became at risk of being completely undermined. And, more recently, another [investigation](#) by [Cruelty Free International](#) exposed the high level of cruelty in yet another laboratory.

However, this high year for science also highlighted opportunities for how advanced non-animal scientific tools and approaches can be more widely promoted to improve the search for disease treatments and the safety assessment of chemicals.

For example, in an open meeting on the role of non-animal approaches in COVID-19-related research, organised by the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals, several experts gave their opinion on the power of new animal-free testing methods to better understand, prevent, and treat diseases such as COVID-19. The [conclusions](#) drawn from this meeting illustrate the important steps to be taken if we are to move towards animal-free science.

#Act4FarmAnimals

EU TO PROMOTE HEALTHIER DIETS, NOT ANIMAL PRODUCTS



In June, a group of over 60 scientists (including Dr Jane Goodall) called on the European Commission to shift its funding for food advertisement away from animal products. The scientists noted in an [open letter](#) that recent Commission policy documents, such as the [Farm to Fork strategy](#) and the [Beating Cancer plan](#), recognise the need for a shift to more plant-rich diets.

Yet in recent years the Commission spent nearly one third of its 200 million euro annual budget to promote agricultural products and advertise animal products.

In the letter, the scientists point out that the high levels of consumption of red and processed meat made possible by industrial production are contributing to heart disease, obesity, diabetes and certain cancers.

They add that “a tsunami” of over-production and over-consumption of animal products in the EU is overwhelming nature. Almost 70% of EU greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture come from animal farming and much of the soy the EU imports for animal feed is from deforested land. The intensification of EU crop production to grow the concentrate feed demanded by industrial animal production is causing soil degradation, overuse and pollution of water, as well as air pollution.

#Act4Fish

FISHERS, SCIENTISTS AND ANIMAL PROTECTION DENMARK JOIN FORCES TO CONDUCT FIRST STUDY ON ANIMAL WELFARE IN THE FISHING INDUSTRY



Eurogroup for Animals' Member [Animal Protection Denmark](#) has initiated cooperation with the Danish Pelagic Producers Organization (DPPO) to launch a new research project on the way fish die in fishery and on whether fishing methods can be developed to support a more humane killing of these sentient animals.

The first part of the project will examine the welfare of fish in pelagic fisheries today. Scientists from the Swedish University of Agriculture, DTU Aqua and the Institute of Technology will study herring during expeditions with trawlers in the North Sea. They will examine the condition of the fish when they reach the boat. Subsequently it will be examined how and how quickly the fish die aboard the boat.

The first research team is going to sea as early as this summer. The scientists expect to have the results of the studies ready by 2022.

Danish pelagic fishery is a good place to start. Danish trawlers catch 60 percent of the total number of pelagic fish that end up in European nets. The Danish part consists primarily of herring, mackerel and horse mackerel for the consumer market, as well as sand eels, sprat, blue whiting, sperling and sea galate, which are used for the production of fish meal and fish oil.

#Act4AnimalsEU

THE EU AND US PAVE THE WAY FOR A BAN ON CAGES ON IMPORTED FOOD



June 30th was a historic day for farm animals all over Europe with the European Commission committing to phase out cages in animal farming across the EU by 2027. The Commission also announced it will address the issue of imported products from non-EU countries, committing to look at “*introducing rules or standards for imported products that are equivalent to the EU's*”.

And for that, the EU can count on the support of the US. Indeed, the US [notified other WTO members](#) about California's proposed ban on cages on June 8th. This proposal emerged in 2018 with the adoption of the [Farm Animal Confinement Initiative](#), also known as Proposition 12. The text suggested a ban on cages for laying hens, pigs and calves, and a ban on the sales of products derived from cage-based productions, regardless of their origin. The legislative process has now started, and if adopted, the measure will impact trade with California and ultimately the US.

This news is a turning point, confirming that the EU's decision will be supported by important allies. In addition to respecting citizens views, applying cage-free standards to imports would also be a huge incentive for producers around the world to improve animal welfare standards, and to shift to more sustainable food systems as they would then gain access to relevant markets.



JOINING FORCES
to End the Cage Age



JOINING FORCES

TO END THE CAGE AGE

ON JUNE 30TH, THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION COMMITTED TO PHASE OUT CAGES IN ANIMAL FARMING ACROSS THE EU BY 2027, MAKING HISTORY FOR FARM ANIMALS.

CURRENT SITUATION

Hundreds of millions of farm animals throughout Europe are kept in cages for most of their lives and endure great suffering. Cages keep animals isolated, or tightly packed in confined areas, provide minimal space and prevent even moderate exercise. Being kept in these conditions, even with excellent stockmanship, can have severe health and welfare implications for the animals involved.

THE RIGHT TIME TO ACT

The [End The Cage Age](#) initiative was launched in September 2018 by [Compassion in World Farming](#) and was promoted by 170 NGOs. It closed exactly one year later, having gained over 1.4 million signatures. The ECI easily exceeded the required threshold of 1 million signatures, with a total of 1,397,113 validated signatures across the EU. It also outstripped the minimum number of signatures threshold in 18 EU Member States.

MAKING HISTORY FOR FARM ANIMALS

The ECI
End the Cage
Age is the:

1st

successful
ECI on farm
animals welfare

3rd

with
the highest
signature count

6th

to succeed among 75
registered initiatives
in the last eight years



AN HISTORIC DECISION FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

On June 30th, the European Commission submitted its reply and committed itself to prohibit cages for over 300 million hens, pigs, calves, rabbits, ducks, geese and other farm animals every year, looking at a phase-out by 2027. EU Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides and Commission Vice-President Věra Jourová made the announcement at a press conference covering the Commission's [response](#) to the [End the Cage Age](#) ECI.

The Commission announced it intends to “*put forward a legislative proposal by the end of 2023 to phase out and finally prohibit the use of cages for all the animal species and categories referred to in the initiative*”. It will also address the issue of imported products from non-EU countries, committing to look at “*introducing rules or standards for imported products that are equivalent to the EU’s*”. By the end of next year, the Commission will evaluate the details of the legislative proposal that will be put forward in 2023, which will need to be adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU to become law.

“ We’re thrilled by the incredible result of the *End the Cage Age* ECI. The European Commission’s commitment to ban cages across Europe will have a huge impact for millions of animals, with no animal left behind. This is an enormous success, and we want to thank all the 1.4 million EU citizens and the hundreds of organisations who fought for this historic moment.”

Reineke Hameleers, CEO, Eurogroup for Animals

Making history for farm animals has been a collaborative effort, where [Compassion in World Farming](#) has been leading a coalition of 170 NGOs from across Europe and rallied citizens from every corner of the Union.



PUBLICATION BY THE COMMISSION OF ITS NEW STRATEGIC AQUACULTURE GUIDELINES

Douglas Waley, Fish Welfare Programme Leader

The European Commission published the “*Strategic Guidelines for Sustainable and Competitive Aquaculture*”, outlining the major priorities for policy initiatives and the use of subsidies in the next 7 years. The document sets the stage for a new era of attention for fish welfare in aquaculture, in the EU and globally as the document is a reference point on sustainable aquaculture.

The document comes after several years of sustained advocacy towards the EU institutions and engagement with aquaculture producers at the EU level in the Aquaculture Advisory Council, establishing a consensus among producers and policymakers on the importance of fish welfare and on the steps and tools needed to make progress.

While the previous guidelines from 2013 did not even contain the word “welfare”, the new guidelines have for the first time a dedicated section on animal welfare with objectives including:

- Support authorities, experts and stakeholders to develop together a code of good practice on fish welfare including farming, transport and slaughter.
- Set common, validated, species-specific, and auditable fish-welfare indicators including farming, transport and slaughter.
- Research and innovation especially into species-specific welfare parameters and nutritional needs.
- Provide training to aquaculture producers and other operators.

Fish welfare is also positioned as an enabler in several other sections of the guidelines including:

- The fish health section will map good husbandry practices in particular environmental enrichment, organise training for operators, and focus research onto supporting natural defence mechanisms including the immune system and skin.
- The environment section encourages diversification into new and especially herbivorous species.
- Aquaculture promotion activities are focussed on organic products, herbivorous species, and supporting the emergence of an algae sector.

Following the publication of these guidelines we will see the European Commission initiate specific projects and initiatives to deliver on these objectives, and we will see Member States aligning their own national aquaculture strategies which then determine the use of EU fishery subsidies in aquaculture.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

**FOLLOW
OUR WORK
ON ANIMAL
WELFARE**



ANIMAL WELFARE DURING SEA TRANSPORT: PRESENTATION OF THE KARIM ALLAH AND ELBEIK'S CRISES' ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

Francesca Porta, Farm Animals Senior Programme Officer

In 2021 we witnessed the “*Elbeik and Karim Allah crises*” involving about 2,600 bovines: those animals were first loaded in Spain to be exported to Turkey and Libya.

However, due to bureaucratic reasons and given the lack of coordination as well as the absence of the mandatory contingency plans, animals remained at sea for three months. After having traveled around the Mediterranean Sea without any specific destination, with animals and the vessels’ crew exhausted by the length and the conditions of the journeys, the Spanish Ministry allowed the vessels to re-enter its territory. Here animals were euthanised by the competent authorities because their health and welfare was seriously compromised.

Eurogroup for Animals and its Member [Animal Welfare Foundation](#) followed closely the case and commissioned the law firm Joaquín Ortega Abogados, S.L. an in depth analysis to identify the roles and responsibilities of the actors involved in the transport operations.

The lawyers’ “[Accountability Report: the Karim Allah and Elbeik’s crises. Animal welfare during sea transport](#)”, accompanied by Eurogroup for Animals’ [summary](#), were presented on June 1st to MEP Tilly Metz, Chair of the Committee of Inquiry on the Protection of Animals during Transport (ANIT), and to Janusz Wojciechowski, EU Commissioner for Agriculture.

During the meetings, representatives from [Animal Welfare Foundation](#), Eurogroup for Animals and the law firm presented the evidence collected in the legal analysis, which indicates that the welfare of the animals on board of these livestock vessels was seriously compromised.

The Accountability Report was also shared with the Veterinarian Attachés, the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Stella Kyriakides, and the MEPs members of the ANIT Committee.

Even if the recent [Council Conclusions](#) on live transport by sea stressed the need to prioritise short term improvements and monitoring, the Elbeik and Karim Allah’s crises proved once again that live animal export is not a correct practice with regards to animals, humans and the environment.

We applauded the German, Dutch and Luxembourgish Ministers who presented a [paper](#) stating that these

conclusions can only be considered as short term measures, but want to see live exports ended through the forthcoming legislative revision.

Indeed the revised transport regulation should introduce a much shorter maximum journey duration for animals as well as a ban on live exports, as the shift to genetic material, meat and carcasses trade is the only way forward.



MEMBER STATES DEMAND TO END FUR FARMING IN THE EU

Bethania Malmberg, Project Leader Fur Farming

On June 28th, the Dutch and Austrian governments presented an [information note](#) on fur farming in the Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting. The initiative called on the European Commission “*to investigate the options for the permanent prohibition of fur farming in the EU and to present a legislative proposal to achieve this goal*”. The discussion paper received support from 10 Member States: Belgium, Germany, Luxemburg, Slovakia, Italy, France, Ireland, Poland, Slovenia and Bulgaria.

This initiative represents an exceptional step forward in the long battle to end fur farming in the EU. Fur farming has already been fully prohibited and/or is presently being phased out in several Member States based on animal welfare and ethical grounds. However, since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Sars-Cov-2 outbreaks in several European mink farms, the discussion about the legitimacy of keeping wild animals for fur production has also gained momentum due to public health concerns.

The public health risks linked to fur farming were clearly displayed in a [scientific statement](#) signed by numerous scientists from the fields of virology, infectious diseases, clinical microbiology, veterinary medicine and environmental health, released by Eurogroup for Animals and the [Fur Free Alliance](#). Members of the European Parliament also shared their concerns on the practice. The report on the EU Biodiversity Strategy adopted in June acknowledges that fur production can significantly compromise animal welfare and increases their susceptibility to infectious diseases including zoonoses.

An overwhelming majority of European citizens is in favour of a ban on fur farming, not only to protect their health but also to end animal suffering. Eurogroup for Animals will continue to use the critical window of opportunity offered by the pandemic and by the twelve Member States’ request to call for an EU approach to the issue, urging for a ban.



#TRACINGTHETRADE CAMPAIGN

Iwona Mertin, Companion Animals Programme Leader

Our analog days are long over and markets stretch far beyond than local, regional or even national. Our markets became global thanks to the digital revolution and immense progress since early 2000. With consumers being in a privileged position, they can buy virtually anything, anywhere and anytime. What might be a blessing for the economy does not always go hand in hand with blessing for consumers who, as a result of gaps in legislative systems, are exposed to hazardous products and dishonest sellers. With an estimated 85 million households in the EU owning at least one pet animal, thousands of species, and tens of millions of individual animals, are shipped both internationally and within Member States to satisfy growing demand. Online has become the main marketplace to purchase a pet. Few EU countries have a limited legislation in place to protect animals sold. This has an unaccounted impact on animal welfare, health of animals, and the spreading of known and new diseases. Additionally, the illegal online animal trade seriously impacts the EU's economies by loss of tax revenues.

Together with our Members we worked hard to analyse the text of the legislation on [Digital Services Act](#) and spot opportunities to improve oversight over the animal trade. Improved tracing of the trade is our main call to policy makers. Diving in, we submitted our amendment proposals and called for Five Steps to make online trade of animals safer:

- **Step 1:** Recognise “*illegally traded animals*”.
- **Step 2:** Introduce effective control of advertisement.
- **Step 3:** Apply proactive information verification process.
- **Step 4:** Disable publications known to be false or misleading.
- **Step 5:** Ensure legal framework fit for long-term challenges and technological developments.

Counting now on the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union to step up and make trade of animals online effectively scrutinised.



CALLING FOR EU AND INDIA TO ADDRESS ANIMAL WELFARE IN THEIR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

Stéphanie Ghislain, Trade and Animal Welfare Programme Leader

On May 8th, the EU and India met for their annual summit and announced the re-launch of their trade negotiations, which had been stalling since 2013. In parallel with these negotiations, the EU and India also committed to closely cooperate on topics such as “*food, nutrition and agriculture, including on sustainable food systems*”. Animal welfare, as an integral part of sustainable development and lying at the heart of sustainable food systems, should be a strong dimension of the upcoming cooperation and negotiations.

To bring attention to the need to include animal welfare in the scope of EU-India trade negotiations, Eurogroup for Animals co-organised a high-level [event](#) with the [Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations](#) (FIAPO), ahead of the Summit.

The event, which launched Eurogroup for Animals’ new report on [Animal protection in EU-India negotiations](#), was introduced by Portugal’s Agriculture Minister, Maria do Céu Antunes who called for animal welfare to be discussed, underlining the need to ensure coherence between the EU’s environmental, food and trade policies. The panel that followed, which gathered high level representatives from both the EU and India, demonstrated willingness to cooperate on both sides. After the panel, participants got the opportunity to join one of the three sessions on species-specific concerns aiming at fostering pragmatic discussions between EU and Indian civil society (**watch the replay as well as full analysis of the event [here](#)**).

After the summer, Eurogroup for Animals and [FIAPO](#) aim to provide the EU institutions and the Indian government with a summary of the discussions that took place at the event, as well as with a list of concrete proposals for an EU-India cooperation mechanism that delivers for animals.

GET TO KNOW US

THE EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS' SUMMER TOOLBOX

Discover our top Animal podcasts, books and movies recommendations to nourish you through the summer.

🔊 THINGS TO LISTEN TO



ANIMALS IN EUROPE
How we achieved a ban on cages in animal farming, with ...
RECAST OF EP16 / 20:56

Do you want to learn more about the historical ban on cages for farm animals? Listen to our podcast featuring Aleksandra Terzieva, Public Affairs Advisor at [Compassion in World Farming EU](#).



ANIMALS IN EUROPE
Fish welfare - improving standards in the EU ...
RECAST OF EP15 / 06:43

The unseen and unfamiliar life of fish has given them low visibility in the animal welfare movement. Discover how we could improve the EU standards on fish welfare together with our expert special guest, Janneke Aelen from the [Aquaculture Stewardship Council](#).

👁️ THINGS TO WATCH



“The tiger mafia”
by Karl Ammann and Laurin Merz

This groundbreaking documentary exposes shocking discoveries from ten years of investigations into the tiger trade in Asia: breeding farms keeping thousands of tigers, tiger petting zoos along with traditional medicine and luxury items made from their body parts are all investigated.



“Kangaroo, a love-hate story”
by Mik McIntyre and Kate McIntyre Clere

This film reveals the truth surrounding Australia's love-hate relationship with its beloved icon. The kangaroo's image is proudly used by top companies, sports teams and tourist souvenirs, yet as they hop across the vast continent many consider them pests to be shot and sold for profit.



“Butenland”
by Marc Pierschel

Butenland tells the story of Jan Gerdes, a former dairy farmer, and Karin Mueck, who liberated cats and dogs from vivisection laboratories in the early 80s. Together they created “Hof Butenland”, the first cow retirement home.

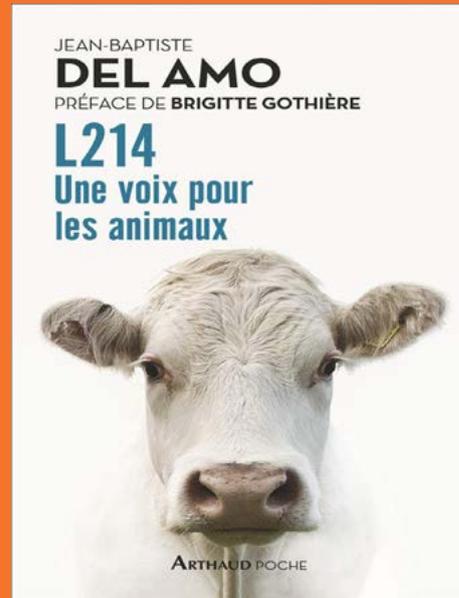
📖 THINGS TO READ



"Farmageddon, the true cost of cheap meat"

by Philip Lymbery and Isabel Oakeshott

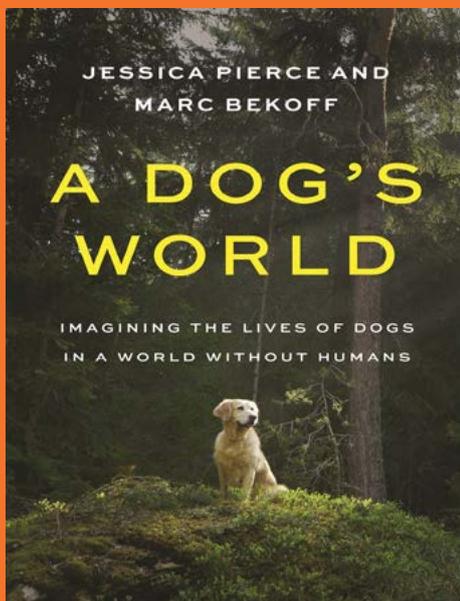
Fascinating and terrifying at the same time, this book documents an investigative journey behind the closed doors of the factory farming industry.



"L214 Une voix pour les animaux"

by Jean-Baptiste Del Amo

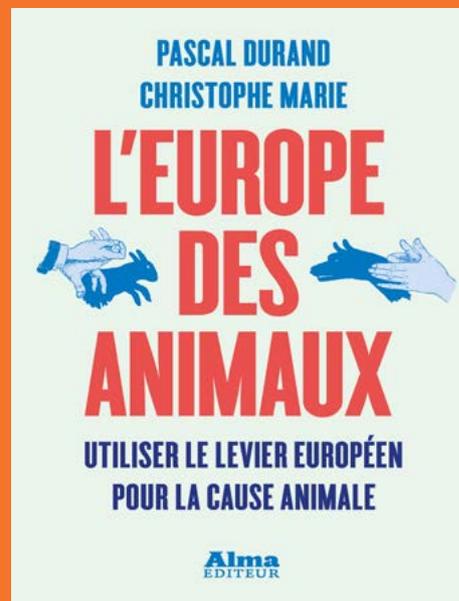
(In French only) This book allows us to understand how a few determined French activists encouraged the media and the highest political authorities to engage in the animal welfare debate.



"A Dog's World: Imagining the Lives of Dogs in a World without Humans"

by Jessica Pierce and Marc Bekoff

(Upcoming - October 2021) What would happen to dogs if humans simply disappeared? Would dogs be able to survive on their own without us? A Dog's World imagines a posthuman future for dogs, revealing how dogs would survive (and possibly even thrive) and explaining how this new and revolutionary perspective can guide how we interact with dogs now.



"L'Europe des animaux. Utiliser le levier européen pour la cause animale"

by Pascal Durand and Christophe Marie

(In French only) In this well-documented book MEP Pascal Durand and Fondation Brigitte Bardot's Deputy Director Christophe Marie deliver an analysis of animal welfare rules and legislations at national and EU levels

OUR MEMBERS

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS WELCOMES FOUR NEW MEMBERS!

We're thrilled to introduce them.

Animal Law

ITALIA

animal-law.it/en

In 2016, a group of lawyers and other professionals actively engaged in the animal protection sector founded Animal Law Italia, in order to promote fair, evidence-based, socially consistent legislation for animals and ensure proper enforcement of existing laws.

Animal Law Italia undertakes numerous informative and educational initiatives and training, geared towards a broader understanding of the topic, as well as campaigns calling for crucial legislative changes.



Cat Care Community

LATVIA

catcarecommunity.com

Created in 2015, Cat Care Community helps stray cats find homes. The association provides the animals with a temporary home or treatment in a clinic and actively looks for new owners. Cat Care Community's goal is to promote animal welfare in Latvia. The main tasks of the organisation are to promote the welfare of animals, especially cats, and to promote public education and training on animal care, health and protection.



Crustacean Compassion

UNITED KINGDOM

crustaceancompassion.org.uk

Crustacean Compassion is an award-winning animal welfare organisation dedicated to the humane treatment of decapod crustaceans: crabs, lobsters, prawns and crayfish, given what is now known about their sentience. They founded the organisation when they heard that crabs were being sold alive fully immobilised in shrinkwrap in UK supermarkets, and that the RSPCA was powerless to act as the animals were not covered by the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Now they engage with legislators and policy makers to strengthen and enforce animal welfare law and policy. They also work to persuade and enable companies to sell higher welfare products across their shellfish product ranges, and they seek to educate both the public and policy makers on the science of decapod crustacean sentience and on their humane treatment and care.



Malta SPCA

MALTA

maltaspca.org

THE MSPCA - Malta Society for the Protection and Care of Animals - is an associated organisation of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA). Its mission is to promote kindness and prevent cruelty to animals through education, advocacy and other activities.

It runs the oldest home for dogs and cats in Malta and is officially recognised by the Maltese Government as the national animal welfare organisation.





SUPPORT US

We are a strong voice for animals in Europe and our strength comes from our Members, friends and partners with whom we relentlessly advocate to improve the welfare of millions of animals across Europe and beyond.

As you can imagine, it's an uphill battle. That's why we constantly strive to attract new supporters to join our movement and why we also need your help. Animal suffering is sadly still a reality, but we can change it together.

There are many ways to help: visit our [website](#) to check the latest campaigns and activities, read our [publications](#) and follow us on social media.

You can also contact us to become a Member or make a donation.

Join us to fight for a better future for all animals!



CONTACT:

Ellen Greve

Membership Officer

e.greve@eurogroupforanimals.org

**NO
ANIMAL
LEFT
BEHIND**



© Amy Asher

**EUROGROUP
FOR ANIMALS**

Rue Ducale, 29 – 1000 Brussels, Belgium
+32 (0)2 740 08 20
info@eurogroupforanimals.org
eurogroupforanimals.org



@Act4AnimalsEU



@eurogroupforanimals



@eurogroup-for-animals



Subscribe to receive our Magazine