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

Editor in Chief: Elise Fleury
Design: BakOS DESIGN

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Summer edition of Eurogroup for Animals' Magazine.

As I'm writing this editorial, Europe just woke up with the shocking news of the outcome of the UK referendum. Being true Europeans, we are all taken back here at Eurogroup for Animals because we wholeheartedly believe in the power of unity and collective strengths. Animal welfare knows no borders. All our efforts and successes for animals have been achieved thanks to our commitment to a cause that goes beyond any political colour and geographical boundary. And we will continue to join our forces in a united voice, because animals across the EU need us.

Luckily there are some positive results that encourage us to persist. Having seen the end of the Dutch Presidency of the Council of the European Union, we received the confirmation of the setup of the first EU Animal Welfare Platform. The aim of this platform will be to establish a horizontal forum of debate as to reinforce implementation and enforcement, foster stakeholder exchange, develop guidance and reinforce animal welfare in trade relations. The overall aim will be to drive positive changes for animals at both national and EU level.

We also received some tremendous news from Luxembourg. Thanks mainly to the hard work of our member organisation Ligue Nationale pour la Protection des Animaux (LNPA), the Minister of Agriculture of Luxembourg presented a new law designed to ensure the dignity, the protection of life, safety and welfare of animals. If this law is adopted, it will be one of the most progressive animal welfare laws in Europe and will confirm Luxembourg as being the most animal-friendly country.



As usual in this Magazine we will highlight one of our campaigns, this time the *Think Positive* campaign, which promotes the concept of the Positive list as the best way to regulate the trading and keeping of exotic pets. And of course, a lot of animal news, interviews, showcases of successes and future plans.

I cannot end this introductory note without mentioning someone very special to Eurogroup for Animals. Our President, General Major Peter Davies stepped down end of June after 20 years of engagement and commitment in our organisation in different functions. His guidance and support as our President for the last four years have confirmed Eurogroup for Animals' position as the premier meeting place for animal advocacy in Europe and has helped consolidate the cohesiveness of our network. I'm very pleased that Peter Davies will stay involved as honorary Ambassador.

I hope you will enjoy the reading of this new issue, and I wish you a very relaxing summer break.



Reineke Hameleers
Director

**EUROGROUP
FOR ANIMALS**

CAMPAIGN

THINK POSITIVE



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THINK POSITIVE CAMPAIGN > #ACT4WILDLIFE

The exotic pet trade is booming all around the world, worth billions of euros annually. What is rarely stressed though by the ones deriving direct commercial benefits from this trade is that it has many adverse collateral effects.

Controlling and eradicating invasive alien species, treating zoonotic diseases, culling thousands of farm animals to prevent these zoonoses from spreading and fighting against the illegal trade of wildlife are all direct consequences of absent or inadequate laws and regulations on the exotic pet trade.

Non-domesticated exotic species have specific needs that are not always known and almost impossible to meet for private owners. When kept as pets, the welfare of those species is frequently jeopardized; they often suffer and die prematurely.

Exotic species may threaten human health either by being aggressive or poisonous species or by carrying diseases. Exotic species can carry diseases transmissible to humans but also to domesticated or wild animals. In the past this has already led to dramatic loss of livestock, compromised

food safety and caused far-reaching socioeconomic consequences for the sector.

Finally, when they escape or are released in nature, they induce considerable damages to the environment and biodiversity.

The illegal trade of wildlife products, including exotic animals for the pet market, is the fourth largest form of trafficking worldwide after drugs, weapons and humans. Every year millions of wild animals are plucked from the wild and moved around the world for commercial purposes. Increasing numbers are sold online, where species are often misidentified or described as captive bred, even if their true origin is wild. Most end up in the exotic-pet trade.

“ Eurogroup for Animals just published a report on the implementation of the Positive list for mammal pets in Belgium, which clearly shows the effectiveness of such legislation.”

Ilaria Di Silvestre, Programme Leader – Wildlife

WHY?

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

ANIMAL WELFARE

ANIMAL HEALTH

HUMAN HEALTH

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

75%

of emerging human diseases are zoonotic

10%
-
15%

of exotic species imported in EU become invasive alien species

13.5 billion euros to control and restore damage by invasive alien species in EU

We believe the best way to address this problem is to introduce a 'Positive list' (what you can keep) defining which exotic animals can be kept under which conditions, instead of the much less efficient 'Negative list' (what you cannot keep) used currently which requires much more frequent revision to keep up to pace with ever more 'exotic' species introduced in Europe.

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

This is why Eurogroup for Animals and AAP Animal Advocacy and Protection work closely with other Eurogroup for Animals' members and other stakeholders. Together we follow national agendas, provide information, organise events and support partners' efforts to obtain the adoption of Positive lists in a growing number of Member States.

“ A Positive list represents a more manageable, proportionate and effective regulatory process and a less bureaucratic burden on enforcement agencies.”

The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

WHY A POSITIVE LIST

Isn't it proper to any consumer goods sector to want to regularly innovate and bring new products to the market? Well, in the exotic pet trade, this has translated in new species regularly appearing in (online) pet shops.

Negative lists, which ban the keeping of some species of animals, do not fulfil the precautionary approach, as these may be updated only when new problems are observed to affect the conservation status of a species, or incidents occur with species threatening human and animal health and the environment. Because new species appear, which no one anticipated could become 'trendy' as pets, these Negative lists need regular updating. But as we all know, it is slow and expensive to change regulations, meaning those animals are left totally unprotected during the period of legal vacuum prior to a list adaptation.

In contrast, a Positive list is a concise list capturing the species that can be kept, based on a scientific risk assessment. Whatever species is not on the list can simply not be traded or kept, offering hence protection for all exotic animals against the creative minds of unscrupulous pet traders. These lists provide clarity to owners and enforcement agencies and create less regulatory bureaucracy and costs for the government as they don't need continuous adaptation.

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



Think Positive Award Team – Brussels 17 June 2015



INTERVIEW

SIRPA PIETIKÄINEN

“ We have to remember that we are doing this for the animals; because they cannot speak ”

FINNISH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT MEP SIRPA PIETIKÄINEN HAS BEEN ELECTED THIS JUNE AS THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE INTERGROUP ON THE WELFARE AND CONSERVATION OF ANIMALS. AS A TRUE FRIEND OF EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS, SHE KINDLY ACCEPTED TO RESPOND TO A FEW QUESTIONS FOR US.

You are among the most active and knowledgeable MEPs on animal welfare. Last year, your commitment to the cause has been rewarded with the MEPs award of the year from the Parliament Magazine, run by Dods, in the category animal welfare. What is your drive to work for the welfare and conservation of animals?

My drive to work for animal welfare first comes from my family background. My parents were always very compassionate about animals and taught me this sensitivity. I spent my childhood with two dogs (a rescued one and a greyhound). I learned to play and to intuitively understand them.

I believe that we share a lot of common features with animals. This includes the ability to feel, to communicate across races, to love, to be attached, to be sad, feel joy, form partnerships etc. And we don't appreciate this enough. Too often we treat animals as if they lack those features that we consider of highest value in human being. Animals have these too! I find it a true disgrace that we treat animals without understanding that they are sensitive and conscious beings, with sentiments and abilities.

Second, my passion for politics lies in what we call the human rights-based approach to the vulnerable (the ones that are being discriminated, the elderly, the disabled, the children...). In this perspective animals should not be left aside, they also need us as they are part of the discriminated beings. I therefore feel very passionate about defending animals.

Nordic countries are often perceived as being advanced in terms of animal welfare, compared to other Member States. How do you see your country (Finland)'s situation? What are the challenges and opportunities this brings in Europe?

I agree: the legislation of Nordic countries is more advanced concerning animal welfare on many points (especially regarding farm animals). But I would wish these governments to be less silent.

We need to be more active in Finland, there is still a lot to do – a lot of cases of mistreatment and law is not properly implemented. And we need to make big progress on our attitude towards animals. As mentioned earlier, it is not only



INSIDE THE INTERGROUP ON THE WELFARE AND CONSERVATION OF ANIMALS

The Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals is the focal point for animal welfare in the European Parliament (EP). The secretariat for this Intergroup has been assured by Eurogroup for Animals ever since its inception in 1980.

It is open to all Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) that are eager to debate and promote this policy issue. Today, 110 MEPs from across all political parties are registered. This Intergroup is one of the first-established and longest running in the European Parliament. Over the years, it has increased not only as forum for debate but also as a catalyst for action. It is today the most dynamic and popular Intergroup of the European Parliament both in terms of frequency of occurrence and level of attendance to its monthly meetings organised in Strasbourg.

To know more please visit:

www.animalwelfareintergroup.eu



CALENDAR OF THE INTERGROUP ON THE WELFARE AND CONSERVATION OF ANIMALS

2016 sessions	Meetings
7 JUL - 326 th	CITES
15 SEP - 327 th	Parliamentary own initiative report on equines
6 OCT - 328 th	Focus on alternatives to animal testing
27 OCT - 329 th	End the cage campaign, Parliamentary own initiative report on rabbit welfare
24 NOV - 330 th	Dolphinaria-Free Europe campaign aims The EU-Zoos Directive
15 DEC - 331 th	Exotic pets: a positive list at EU Level or A new EU – Animal Welfare Strategy



Andreas Erler advocates on behalf of Eurogroup for Animals in the EP. He also serves as Secretary of the Intergroup. His ultimate responsibility is to gain support and engagement for our advocacy agenda in the EP both by lobbying MEPs directly and by engaging them in the Intergroup's reflections and actions. Andreas also provides political analysis and advice on animal welfare issues to MEPs as well as to civil servants in the other EU institutions.

about treating animals well, so they are not ill or in pain, but also to understand that they have rights to express their natural behaviour.

Congratulations for your election as the new President of the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals. What motivated you to be a candidate for President? What's your reading of this role? How do you see the Intergroup's concrete capacity to influence animal welfare at EU level? And what kind of leadership will you bring?

I have been caring about animals all my life. During my time as a politician in Finland I was already active in the animal welfare Intergroup of the Finnish parliament; it was therefore logical to join immediately the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals. It is a very important and powerful Intergroup, with quite a long history and with a very broad support from civil society and the scientific community.

I see my role as an enabler. There are a lot of passionate people; a lot of MEPs are very knowledgeable on specific topics (such as transport, farming, and wild animals). I want to give as much floor as possible to these MEPs to pursue their interest in animal welfare regardless of their political group.

As President of the Intergroup you have committed to the promotion of all priorities of the Intergroup for this term. However, what are the outstanding issues you want to particularly focus on?

We have a very long list that is already on our table: companion animals (mandatory registration and identification), animal testing and alternatives (we need to push the Commission to invest more into research on the use of alternatives), farm animals (going from rabbits, to dairy cows, broilers or the foie-gras issue), and of course animal transportation. Then of course, I hope that we can push the Commission, together with the Council and some active Member States, to move on with the Animal Welfare Strategy and the Animal Welfare Framework Law. This would of course impact the progress on the list of issues mentioned before.

What are your views on the creation of an EU platform on animal welfare and what potential do you see in such a body?

I see a huge potential and I hope that this platform will be created as soon as possible. We know there is so much knowledge available; there are so many active actors (veterinaries, NGOs etc.). If we could put these different actors all together this would generate a great source of information and a powerful advice tool for the Commission.

IN EUROPE

[#Act4AnimalsEU](#)

IMPROVING ANIMAL WELFARE LEGISLATION IN LUXEMBOURG



As a result of Eurogroup for Animals' member organisation Ligue Nationale pour la Protection des Animaux (LNPA)'s persistent advocacy efforts, the proposal for legislation to ensure the dignity, protection of life, safety and welfare of animals was submitted for vote to the European Parliament mid-June. This is a very big step forward in improving conditions for animals in Luxembourg. The law will impose, among others, responsible ownership of cats by making identification and registration compulsory; make explicit what is companion animals as well as the species that will be allowed in circuses (wild animals will be banned).

[#Act4Wildlife](#)

BOOMING EXOTIC PET TRADE: WHY RESTRICTIONS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED



Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP (EPP, Finland) organised on 15 June an event in collaboration with Eurogroup for Animals, AAP Animal Advocacy and Protection and Pro Wildlife. This was the opportunity to present the new report about *"The implementation of the positive list for mammal pets in Belgium: a success story"* just released in May 2016.

The number of exotic animals being traded is booming and it is time to address this issue. In response to this, the concept of a Positive list was promoted. Member States are urged to move faster and the Positive List system, being preventive at its core, is the ideal legislation to regulate the sale and keeping of animals as pets.

The debate included the contribution of independent scientists, experts from NGOs and the European Commission.

[#Act4Wildlife](#)

NETHERLANDS RESTRICTS HUNTING TROPHY IMPORT



The killing of Cecil the lion in Zimbabwe in July last year generated a great deal of public outrage and concern about the ethics and sustainability of trophy hunting. After the recent decisions by France to ban the import of lion trophies, by Australia to ban the imports of trophies derived from lions and rhinos, and by the USA to include lions on its Endangered Species Act, the Dutch government in April decided to restrict the importation of hunting trophies too. As a result, hunting trophies of 200 species are no longer allowed to be imported into the Netherlands.

#Act4Pets

SCALE OF ILLEGAL PUPPY TRADE UNCOVERED IN NEW REPORT BY RSPCA

A new report from the RSPCA shows that over 30,000 were bred and imported from illegal farms in Romania, Hungary, Poland and Lithuania in 2015, while around 40,000 more were farmed and trafficked from Ireland – the total from both regions amounting to 191 a day.



The cruel trade is fed by demand for puppies of certain “must have” breeds, as the fashion for “designer” cross-breed dogs and “handbag” dogs has soared. As breeds such as French bulldogs, Pomeranians, shih-tzus, Yorkshire terriers and pugs have become more sought-after, the numbers registered have rocketed.

Last year 10,087 pugs were registered – a five-fold increase over the past 10 years. And 14,607 French bulldogs were registered – 40 times more than those registered a decade ago.

Eurogroup for Animals and its member organisations are currently awaiting the European Commission’s response to a Resolution of the European Parliament which aims at stopping this growing illegal practice.

#Act4FarmAnimals

FRENCH ANIMAL WELFARE ORGANISATIONS SPEAK UP FOR ANIMAL WELFARE AT SLAUGHTER DURING A HEARING AT THE FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Numerous scandals in slaughterhouses were revealed during the last months, mostly by French organisation L214. Thanks to



their continuous efforts, the French National Assembly set up a committee to address the situation.

In this context, our French members L214, Fondation Brigitte Bardot, and Welfarm, together with other French animal welfare associations, participated in May in a hearing in front of the French National Assembly concerning repeated acts of cruelty and severe violations of the European legislation of animal welfare at three French abattoirs.

These slaughter scandals revealed by undercover investigations released of L214, continue to cause debate in France.

#Act4Equines

HORRIFIC PRACTICES OF HORSE BLOOD FARMING

Tierschutzbund Zürich (TSB), one of our Swiss member organisation, has met with the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Vytenis Andriukaitis, to present the findings of their ground breaking investigations into the production of blood serum in Uruguay and Argentina.



Last year they exposed horrific new practices in South America. The blood of pregnant mares is extracted without due regard for the health or welfare either of their foals or the mares, in conditions which would be illegal within Europe. Their blood is used for the production of the hormone PMSG (Pregnant Mare Serum Gonadotropin), which is used by the European pig industry for the induction and synchronization of oestrus in sows.

Representatives of TSB outlined their public and political concerns and called on the Commission to take immediate short-term and long-term measures. The Commission is now studying the findings of TSB’s investigations, and have committed to analyse the possibilities.



THE USE OF ANIMALS IN SCIENCE, TESTING AND EDUCATION WHICH CAUSES ANIMALS PAIN, SUFFERING, DISTRESS OR LASTING HARM IS A MATTER OF GREAT PUBLIC CONCERN. OUR PRIMARY GOAL THEREFORE IS TO END THE USE OF ANIMALS BY REPLACING THEM WITH NON-ANIMAL METHODS. UNTIL THIS IS ACHIEVED, EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS PROMOTES MEASURES THAT WILL HELP REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ANIMALS USED, AND ENSURE THAT THEY EXPERIENCE THE MINIMUM SUFFERING, AND THAT THEIR WELFARE IS IMPROVED AT EACH STAGE OF THEIR LIVES.





JOINING FORCES

FOR ANIMALS USED IN SCIENCE

OVER 11 MILLION ANIMALS – INCLUDING DOGS, RABBITS AND EVEN OUR CLOSEST GENETIC RELATIVES, PRIMATES – ARE USED IN LABORATORY RESEARCH AND TESTING THROUGHOUT THE EU EVERY YEAR

(based on a Commission report from 2013).

They are used for a variety of purposes including safety testing of different substances: medicines, cosmetics, household products and chemicals and for medical research into human diseases and conditions. More than the use of the animal, also the way the animals are kept from birth, before and during the procedures and housing conditions can cause considerable stress and suffering.

Alternative approaches to animal testing have gained momentum in the past years. We already have a ban on animal testing for cosmetics in Europe and a large number of EU legislations promote alternatives to ensure animals are only used as a last resort. The EU directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes (2010/63/EU) incorporates for the first time the principle of the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement) in EU legislation and makes its promotion a firm legal requirement.

A MATTER OF PUBLIC MOBILISATION

Animals used in science have always been at the forefront of the animal advocacy movement. But since the last decades it has also increasingly become a mainstream issue in EU public opinion.

This has been revealed in several surveys on public perceptions around this topic. A Eurobarometer looking at “Attitudes of EU citizens towards Animal Welfare Fieldwork” published in March 2007 showed overall nearly 80 % of the citizens interviewed thought animal welfare issues were very important. In June 2010, a special Eurobarometer survey on science and technology found marked divisions in public opinion on animal experiments.

More recently, the European Citizens’ Initiative „Stop Vivisection“ submitted to the Commission showed a total of 1.17 million signatures of EU citizens from different backgrounds and origins indicating support for this pressing animal welfare issue.

TIME FOR CHANGE

THIS IS NO LONGER A BLACK AND WHITE ISSUE WHERE PEOPLE ARE EITHER FOR OR AGAINST ANIMAL TESTING. INSTEAD, THERE IS A GROWING SOCIETAL SHIFT IN ATTITUDE AND CONCERN.

Eurogroup for Animals' primary goal is to end the use of animals for science, testing and educational purposes, by replacing them with humane alternatives. Until full replacement of animal experiments is achieved, and as long as animals are still used in science and testing and for educational purposes, we work with key players and promotes measures that will help reduce the number of animals used, and ensure that they experience the minimum suffering, and that their welfare is improved at each stage of their lives.

Eurogroup for Animals does not believe that it makes sense to stigmatise and blame users, instead we need a new way of thinking to ensure change and this will need to be a collaborative effort with all stakeholders concerned, including with the ones currently using animals. Eurogroup for Animals connects the strengths of the stakeholders on the ground to facilitate dialogue and work with our member organisations to speak in a united voice at the EU level. We work with legislators, authorities, experts, other animal advocacy groups and industry.

As a recognised and trusted organisation providing sound expertise and information we play a distinctive role in helping to connect the dots. This role also derives from us holding a privileged position in EU circles given our presence inside the various EU consultative and expert bodies. Our influence there often leads to what may appear as small changes on paper but often leading to a large impact for many animals. We for example participate in various EU initiatives promoting alternatives and are a member of a number of committees where animal issues are raised and tackled. We also collaborate with EU officials and organise meetings of the Parliament Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of animals in Strasbourg to mobilize MEP's to engage in this topic too and continue to improve legislation.

Our actions include interaction with Member States' competent authorities and carrying out surveys to collect data from those that either interact with animals or regulate the use of animals. This ensures that we gain a better understanding of where enforcement of the EU directive is insufficient and where changes could be pursued to minimise animal use.

In doing so, we work hand in hand with our member organisations who advocate endlessly at national level by initiating campaigns and other actions. There is a big opportunity ahead of us with the review of the Directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. Eurogroup for Animals has been gearing up and are already actively participating in the review process and will continue to attend and influence during the process.

WHAT ARE THE 3Rs?



REPLACEMENT

Methods, strategies or approaches which do not involve the use of live animals.



REDUCTION

Any approach that will result in fewer animals being used to achieve the required objective



REFINEMENT

Modification of any procedures or husbandry and care practices from the time the experimental animal is born until its death, so as to minimise the pain, suffering and distress experienced by the animal and enhance its well-being.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

FOLLOW OUR WORK FOR ANIMAL WELFARE





#STOPHETRUCKS

Francesca PORTA, Programme Officer

The Eurogroup for Animals pan-European campaign in 2016 #StopTheTrucks has had a successful first 3 months. With 22 Eurogroup for Animals members united to support and promote the campaign across the EU, a real momentum is building. So far almost 200,000 people have taken action and supported #StopTheTrucks. As a result of Vier Pfoten's engagement in the campaign in Austria we even have seen the Austrian Government submit an official request to the Commission for a revision of the Transport Regulation. In Belgium too, member organisation GAIA has ensured real traction where the campaign received the support of the three competent ministers.



We have now entered the second phase of the campaign with political lobbying lifting off spearheaded by the MEP working group to end long distance transport of live animals under the leadership of MEP Maria Noichl. Ms Noichl managed to secure a meeting early May with Commissioner Andriukaitis where we were invited to present the campaign. This MEP working group has also submitted a Pilot Project proposal to the European Parliament budget Committee – a formal request and budget allocation for the European Commission to look at this issue in depth - which is to investigate the broader societal effect of a shift to a food chain without long distance transport.

The Commissioner seems genuinely concerned with what he has witnessed both through #StopTheTrucks but also through the publication of *Animals Angels' Myth of Enforcement*. This new publication clearly outlines all the loopholes of the current regulation and why it will never be fully implementable. As a result of the campaign, the Commissioner and several Agricultural Ministers flagged transport as one of the welfare issues that should be tackled through the forthcoming EU Animal Welfare Platform during the May Agricultural Council.



THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING DAIRY WELFARE IN A CHANGING EU ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE

Elena NALON, Programme leader – Farm animals

The EU dairy sector is undergoing changes that are profoundly affecting animal welfare and the livelihoods of farmers. Dairy farmers who want their businesses to survive in the post-milk quotas market are stimulated to expand, investing in technology and innovation.

The unregulated or scarcely regulated expansion of dairy farms in some regions of Europe is accompanied by intensification, meaning that dairy cows are increasingly kept in 'zero-grazing' systems in which they are housed indoors for all or the vast majority of the year. Such cows are never or rarely allowed out to graze on pasture during the grass growing season.

The move to zero-grazing is taking place despite EFSA's conclusion that "If dairy cows are not kept on pasture for parts of the year, i.e. they are permanently on a zero-grazing system, there is an increased risk of lameness, hoof problems, teat tramp, mastitis, metritis, dystocia, ketosis, retained placenta and some bacterial infections." EFSA identifies foot and leg disorders as a major welfare problem for dairy cows, noting also that there has been no reduction in the prevalence of lameness in the last 20 years.

Some farmers are reacting to this concerning prices by promoting value over volumes. Consumers are willing to pay premium prices for milk produced from cows that are allowed the freedom to graze for at least part of the year, and this milk can be labelled accordingly. However, access to logistics and engagement with the supply chain are limiting factors for many farmers. Another hurdle is the complexity of the bureaucracy required to access CAP funding measures for animal welfare.

If not accompanied by appropriate animal welfare provisions, the industrialisation of the dairy sector will have several potentially negative consequences for animal welfare.

On May 3, MEP Jytte Guteland (S&D Group), Eurogroup for Animals and the Intergroup for the Welfare and Conservation of Animals gathered stakeholders in the European Parliament around the theme "Sustainable, profitable and welfare-friendly dairy farming in the EU: the ways forward".

At the occasion of this event we have started collaboration with the EP and several industry stakeholders that hopefully will bring about concrete improvements for dairy cow welfare, a species still not protected under EU legislation.



TRADE & ANIMAL WELFARE

Jan WALTER, Project Lead – International Trade

In light of today's increasing trend for liberalization of trade in animals and animal products through free trade agreements, the Trade & Animal Welfare (T&AW) project was set up at Eurogroup for Animals. The aim is to uphold EU animal welfare standards and defend consumers' choices, while fostering animal welfare in third countries using a holistic, long term and strategic approach to animal welfare and multilateral and bilateral trade exchanges.

As such, the top priority of the T&AW project agenda this spring has been to heavily engage in discussions during negotiations of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) – the controversial trade agreement between the EU and the USA. This process is set to create the biggest free trade area in the world and is one of the ten overall priorities of the Juncker Commission.

The T&AW project developed the first Eurogroup for Animals position on TTIP – managing knowledge and building consensus amongst member organisations – and released a substantial, in-depth analysis of the current agreement's texts. Both the position paper and the analysis have been used extensively in EU advocacy efforts and will be helpful tools for national advocacy.

TTIP pursues potential improvement in wildlife protection, whereas farm animals are so far left to suffer the consequences of the commercial rationale behind trade agreements. Current TTIP texts are not satisfactory and Eurogroup for Animals advocates for improvements of the regulatory regime and the application of carefully worded conditional liberalisation for animal products. This would mean that only producers that comply with EU animal welfare standards would benefit from reduced import tariffs.

Trade policy is a long-term activity, and TTIP is no exception. The negotiations, spearheaded by the European Commission on the EU side, started in 2013, and the push for an end game is growing with upcoming 2016's US presidential elections and German and French general elections in 2017. Brexit brings a lot of uncertainty, but even so, the autumn season will be a decisive period in TTIP negotiations. We hope to find enough resources for the T&AW project to continue to engage all interested members for the animal welfare voice to be heard.



EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS VETERINARY SHELTER PLATFORM

Elise FLEURY, Communications and Membership Officer

Shelter medicine is a relatively new academic field in Europe but a very important one to drive quality in shelter and rescue work. Shelter medicine is inextricably linked to shelter management and shelter design. There is a wealth of valuable knowledge and expertise among Eurogroup for Animals' members and yet, many face serious and often similar challenges to manage their rescue work in a responsible, professional and cost-efficient manner. Today, a structural cross-border exchange among charities on how to improve shelter and rescue work by fostering shelter medicine approaches is inexistent in contrast to what happens for example in the US. There are strong academic developments in shelter medicine both in the US and in the UK where chief vets of cat and dog charities regularly convene and work on a joint publication.



This prompted the RSPCA to ask Eurogroup for Animals to facilitate a platform on veterinary medicines for our members, an initiative which fits within Eurogroup for Animals' cohesion-building role in Europe.

The aim of the platform is to boost information-sharing among veterinarians working for rescue and rehoming shelters of our members. This should put them in a better position to care for companion animals based on the most state-of-the-art practices in terms of shelter medicine, shelter management, housing systems or the quality of rescue activities.

The Group has already met twice, first in 2015 at the Amsterdam Animal Shelter, the largest and one of the oldest animal shelters in the Netherlands and second in April 2016 at Tierheim Deutscher Tierschutzbund. This was the occasion for participants to identify the needs and issues across animal rescue and rehoming shelters, define the group's objectives and terms of reference, discuss stress-associated infections in cats, prevention of cat flu by stress management as well as the future strategic and technical orientations of the platform.

LOOKING BACK

ACHIEVEMENTS AFTER 2000

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

2001



Pigs Directive introduces ban on the use of individual gestation stalls and the tethering of sows

2004



Cosmetics directive bans testing of ingredients on animals and the marketing of products tested on animals

2005



Commission Regulation laying down animal health requirements for the movement of circus animals between Member States

2007



Article 13 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union recognises that animals are "sentient beings"

2009



New regulation on the protection of animals at the time of killing

2009



The EU agrees a ban on the marketing of seal products in the EU

2010



Directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes

2012



First practical guidelines to assess fitness for transport of adult bovines published

2015



Mandating the registration of pet breeding and sale establishments

OUR MEMBERS

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

THE ANIMAL ADVOCACY LANDSCAPE HAS GRADUALLY EVOLVED OVER THE PAST DECADES. NOT ONLY HAVE ANIMAL ADVOCACY ACTORS TREMENDOUSLY GROWN IN NUMBERS, BUT ALSO FOR MANY IN SIZE AND IN FIELD OF SPECIALISATION.

Eurogroup for Animals has made the choice to embrace this diversity. As a result, the composition of the membership has changed rapidly in the recent past with more single issue members, less international members and overall a greater heterogeneity among members in terms of size, ethical positioning and purpose. Geographical spreading is also more justified than ever given the increased need for integrated lobby between Eurogroup for Animals and its members, mirroring the increased influence of European capitals on the EU political scene.

As a result, since 2015 we saw an unprecedented growth of our network, with 9 new organisations joining us from across Europe.

World Animal Net
worldanimal.net

Dyrevern Alliansen
<https://www.dyrevern.no>

Animal Protection Agency (APA)
www.apa.org.uk

Animal Defenders International (ADI)
www.ad-international.org

Otwarte Klatki
www.otwarteklatki.pl

Fundacja Tara
www.fundacjatarata.info

Ligue National pour la Protection des Animaux (LNPA)
www.deierenasy.l.lu/lnpa

L214
www.l214.com

Animal Guardians Malta
animalguardians.ngomalta.com



**ANIMAL
GUARDIANS
MALTA**



SUPPORT US

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

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

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



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Development Manager

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WE ARE SOCIAL

Through our members,

12 million people

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[www.scoop.it/t/animal-
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> Eurogroup for
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www.eurogroupforanimals.org



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