

Issue 04 | October 2016

EUROGROUP
FOR ANIMALS

MAGAZINE



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

For equines

JOINING FORCES

To protect animals in
International trade

INTERVIEW

Meet Maria Noichl

MEMBERS

2016 Campaign Award

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#STOP THE TRUCKS

Campaign to end long distance transportation of live animals



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MARIA NOICHL

Champion
Euro-parliamentarian
to end live animal transport



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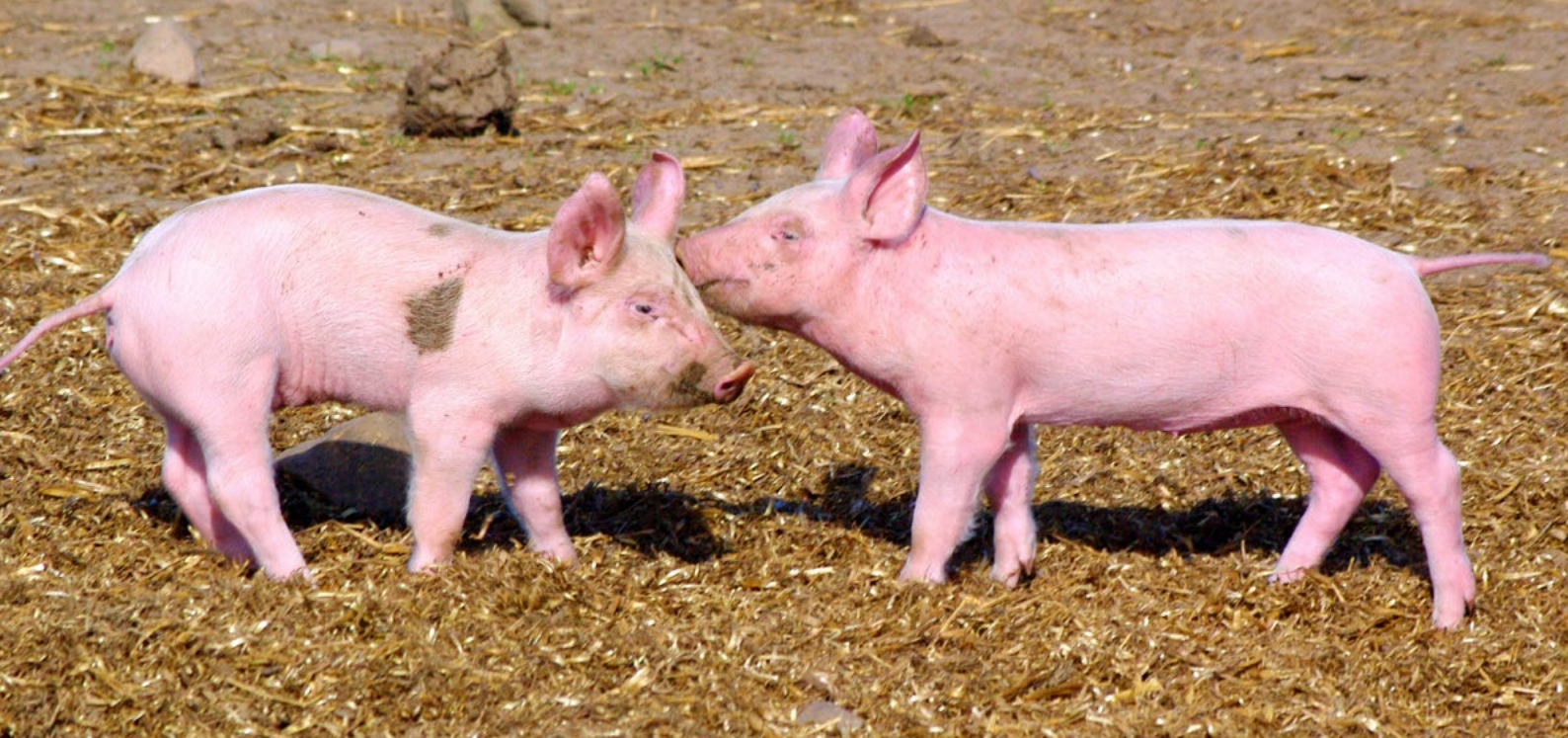
The Trade and Animal Welfare
Project



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EDITORIAL

ANIMAL WELFARE KNOWS NO BORDERS

Welcome to the autumn edition of our Eurogroup for Animals magazine. We are delighted to share with you new adventures in our mission to make Europe a better place for animals.

Sometimes things happen of which you first think, this can't be true, I must be in a very bad dream. This was our experience on 23 June, the day after the Brexit vote. What we dreaded had come true, the UK voted to leave the EU. As true believers in the future of a better European Project, we were devastated by this outcome.

After having wiped our tears we got ourselves together and initiated a dedicated Brexit and animal welfare taskforce. Animal welfare knows no borders and Eurogroup for Animals is committed to driving positive change for animals across Europe and not just the EU. Joining forces with our nine UK based members, the taskforce aims at securing existing animal welfare standards in the UK and the future trade agreement. As every downside has its upsides, we are turning the forthcoming divorce in an opportunity for animals. Obtaining higher standards on both sides of the channel

will affect trade relations and can thereby be used as a lever for our work. For example, if the UK was to introduce mandatory method of production labelling it would give the EU an impetus to follow suit.

Luckily, there are also a lot of good results to share with you. Thanks to our close collaboration with several Euro-Parliamentarians we saw the adoption of two important pilot projects on the market acceptance of non-castrated pig meat and alternatives for animal experimentation. These projects will be crucial to phase out cruel practises of piglet castration and animal testing.

And then there was big news for the Barbary Macaque. Thanks to the relentless work of our member AAP Animal Advocacy & Protection, the CITES COP in Johannesburg approved of the uplisting of this endangered species to annex 1! This victory will help us with securing more attention and resources to tackle the illegal trade in this beautiful species.

These successes keep us going and the animal advocacy movement is gaining more and more strengths. Last month we welcomed a new French member La Fondation Droit Animal, éthique et sciences (LFDA) who has joined our network. Another ally in our ongoing efforts to push the European animal welfare agenda forward!



Reineke Hameleers
Director

**EUROGROUP
FOR
ANIMALS**



CAMPAIGN

#StopTheTrucks

TAKE ACTION >

WWW.STOPHETRUCKS.EU > [#STOPHETRUCKS](https://twitter.com/STOPHETRUCKS)

Eurogroup for Animals' 2016 flagship campaign *#StopTheTrucks* meant to put the subject of live animal transport back on the EU political agenda now that the EU Transport Regulation (EC) 1/2005 approached its 10th anniversary in implementation.

It has become clear since the Regulation entered into force in 2007, that this instrument intending to regulate the transportation of live animals and protect their welfare, is in practice largely inadequate for the purpose. In its current format, the Regulation leaves too much room for interpretation to industry operators and national competent authorities, which makes it difficult to consistently implement and enforce it.

We are proud to say that our campaign currently runs across Europe with 20 animal advocacy organisations extending our call for action to Europe's citizens. This mobilisation has started to yield impact given the Austrian and Belgian Government's official request to the European Commission to revise the Transport Regulation, joining herein Germany, Sweden, The Netherlands and Denmark.

SUCCESSFULLY MOBILISING PUBLIC OPINION

By collecting signatures through an online petition, the campaign mobilises public opinion to call for a legislative change on their respective ministers and the European Commission. Already 300.000 signatures have been collected within 6 months. The dedicated website for the campaign has welcomed so far 50.000 visitors. Success is also encountered on social media, with about 200.000 post views and 3.000 actions generated on Facebook, and around 250.000 impressions of our tweets.

With 20 countries running the campaign simultaneously, we are excited to see some of the leading national press covering the issue of long distance live animal transport and referring to *#StopTheTrucks*.

For example, the renowned French-German TV Channel Arte released a documentary showcasing the transport conditions of live animals with an emphasis on exports of live animals to third countries. *#StopTheTrucks* has also featured in several events organised Europe-wide on the occasion of the International day against live animal transport (29 August 2016). Street Actions were organised in the United Kingdom, France, Italy, and Poland. Silvana Amato, Member of the Italian Senate, participated in the street action organized in Italy, stating that "Livestock deserves all our respect and we have to ensure them a life without unnecessary suffering".

 **50.000**
WEBSITE VISITORS

 **200.000**
FACEBOOK POST VIEWS

 **250.000**
TWEETS VIEWS

 **3.000**
ACTIONS GENERATED



CONNECTING CITIZENS' CONCERNS WITH EU PLAYERS

"I've seen these pictures and I am deeply disturbed by them. I will take up these matters with my colleagues at the next Agriculture meeting in Brussels" said the Swedish Rural Minister Sven-Erik Bucht, after having seen yet another recent reportage on long distance live animal transport.

Euro-parliamentarians too are mobilised behind the campaign, among others through the dedicated working group they have created under the auspices of the Intergroup for the Welfare and Conservation of Animals. Not only do they promote the campaign, they also reject actions of other Parliamentarians contrary to the campaign such as the recent call from the Parliament's Agricultural Committee for an expansion of live animal export.



All eyes are now directed to the European Commission in an attempt to understand how they will position themselves in this debate, but we have good indications that it appreciates the increased political pressure.

Commissioner Andriukaitis mentioned the topic publicly on several occasions recently, such as at the AGRI-Fish Committee or at our Annual General Meeting mid-June where he acknowledged that the welfare of animals during transport is a critical issue.

That the Commission takes our campaign seriously also appears from the communication between the Commission and national Chief Veterinary Officers as well as leading EU transporters. Highlighting the need to ensure animal welfare of transported animals throughout the journey, this communication encourages the taking of emergency measures proportionate to the seriousness of identified risks.

Strong civil society support is essential to convince decision makers to commit to improve the current Regulation on live animal transport. A push on signatures will remain to be essential for this campaign to carry real weight. We need all of you to reach our final target of 1 million of signatures by March 2017. [TAKE ACTION](#) to #StopTheTrucks.

◀ Intergroup working group on Live Animal Transport, September 2016 (Stefan Eck -MEP, David Bowles -RSPCA, Maria Noichl -MEP, Isabella Monte -MEP, Anja Hazekamp -MEP, Keith Taylor -MEP)

INTERVIEW

MARIA NOICHL



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“ My top three issues? This is easy: live animal transport, live animal transport, and live animal transport!”

MARIA NOICHL, GERMAN SOCIAL AND DEMOCRAT EURO-PARLIAMENTARIAN, IS ONE OF OUR GREAT ALLIES ON THE BURNING ISSUE OF LIVE ANIMAL TRANSPORTATION. IN THAT CONTEXT WE WERE DELIGHTED TO GATHER HER INSIGHTS.

Can you share something about your background, your interest for animals and your journey from Germany to Brussels?

As a child, my family had dogs and rabbits. But I was especially fascinated by the horses of my neighbour. Then on the other hand, we were always interested in politics at home. We would debate for hours and we all had different points of view, which I found very challenging and exciting!

After more than ten years as a councilwoman in Rosenheim, my hometown, and five years as member of the Bavarian Parliament, I had the possibility to run for the European Parliament and I am very grateful for this opportunity.

As a member of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (S&D group) it is important for me to lend a voice to the weakest members of society.

This can be humans or animals. The way we treat creatures that are vulnerable and that depend on us, even if nobody sees it, shows our true character. I come from a country, Germany, where animal welfare is written down in the Constitution. But we still need to do more, especially regarding livestock and illegal animal trade. This is why I am very happy to be able to work on these issues through my mandate at the European Parliament.

You are a member of the Parliament's Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals. Can you explain why, what you expect from being part of it and give us your top three issues?

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Andreas Erler,
Senior Political Advisor

INSIDE THE INTERGROUP ON THE WELFARE AND CONSERVATION OF ANIMALS

Roles of the Intergroup

- The main forum of discussion for animal welfare in the European Parliament, raising a variety of issues
- An action catalyst for Euro-Parliamentarians willing to go further with cross-party initiatives on animal welfare
- A direct link and exchange with civil society
- A strategy initiator on specific animal welfare issues directed by topic related working groups

To know more please visit: www.animalwelfareintergroup.eu



LOBBY SUCCESS: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT APPROVES OF AN EXTRA

1,850,000 €

TARGETED INVESTMENT IN THE WELFARE OF PIGS, LAB ANIMALS AND LARGE CARNIVORES.

The European Parliament approved on 29/09 an extra 1,850,000 Euro to be invested in three pilot projects to tackle major animal welfare problems in Europe for pigs, lab animals and large carnivores. This result came after an intense and coordinated lobby effort between Eurogroup for Animals and the European Parliament Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals.

It is a great opportunity to meet like-minded persons all over the political spectrum. I can learn new aspects regarding animal welfare and be part of a network for livestock, companion and wild animals. Together we aim to improve the situation for all animals. My top three issues? This is easy: live animal transport, live animal transport, and live animal transport!

Eurogroup for Animals' campaign #StoptheTrucks is battling hard to end long distance transport for over 1 billion poultry and 37 million cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and equines across national boundaries. What are your thoughts on this issue?

When economic interests are strong, as we see in the field of live animal transport, the situation is always difficult to improve. Nevertheless, the #StoptheTrucks campaign is an important beginning point in the fight to improve animal welfare conditions in agriculture.

This is why I decided to become the chair of the Intergroup's working group on live animal transportation. The situation for animals during transport is outrageous. The

impression that "nobody is really responsible" or "they will be slaughtered anyway" allows excesses ranging from careless to outright criminal. As member of the agricultural committee I believe I have a special responsibility in the field of livestock transport which is why my collaboration with Eurogroup for Animals is essential. Agriculture is inconceivable without animals. Animal husbandry without animal welfare, too.

We are now at mid-term of this legislature, how do you look back at what has been achieved for the animals since 2014? And how do you look forward?

We established a good network and work trustingly together which is the best basis for success. We are talking about concrete topics like the husbandry conditions for rabbits and we aim to find a majority for precise changes - step by step but persistent.

In future, we will put an emphasis on supporting the more progressive member states in the Council in order to improve the conditions of animals in Europe through a holistic approach.

IN EUROPE

#Act4Pets

THE DSPCA RESCUES OVER 100 PUPPIES FROM ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING IN IRELAND



The Irish organisation Dublin SPCA has been working closely with Irish police over the summer. In August alone DSPCA conducted five separate seizures of illegally smuggled puppies, two in Dublin and three in Cairnryn in Scotland, rescuing over 100 puppies from their smugglers. All puppies seized lacked appropriate paperwork under the EU Pet Passport Regulation, and were therefore confiscated under the Irish Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013.

In one raid alone, 22 puppies and a pregnant mum were seized with the aid of the immigration section of Irish police at Dublin port. The driver confirmed they were destined for export to the UK, despite the puppies' only being 8 to 10 weeks old, which is illegal under EU law.

These seizures are yet another example of the absence of any regard to the health and welfare of puppies by those involved in their illegal trafficking. DSPCA and other SPCA's in Northern Ireland, Scotland, UK and Great Britain and Ireland's customs and taxation authorities continue to combat this horrific trade.

#Act4Wildlife

CITES COP17 INCREASES THE PROTECTION OF MANY THREATENED SPECIES



The 17th Conference of the Parties (CoP) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) met in Johannesburg from 24 September to 4 October. This has been the largest ever meeting of its kind with 152 governments taking decisions on 62 species-listing proposals submitted by 64 countries.

The CoP17 adopted important proposals that will increase the protection for several threatened species.

One of the biggest successes of the Conference has also been the transfer of Barbary macaque in Appendix I, meaning that it is now receiving the highest level of international protection from trade. This achievement has been particularly welcomed by our member organization AAP Animal Advocacy & Protection that worked intensively in collaboration with authorities both in Morocco and in Europe to increase attention on the Barbary macaque.

#Act4FarmAnimals

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE IN ABATTOIRS AMONG MEASURES PROPOSED BY A FRENCH PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY



Thanks to the continuous efforts of French animal advocacy organisations, the French National Assembly set up a committee to address the serious animal welfare violations recorded in slaughterhouses throughout France recently.

The committee delivered its 255-page mid-September including 65 recommendations such as mandatory video monitoring in abattoirs, dedicated full-time veterinary presence for abattoirs employing over 50 staff, modernisation of abattoir equipment, mobile abattoirs to reduce animal transportation times, improved employee training, and setting up a national ethics committee.

The initiators of the investigations disclosing these abuses, L214, welcomed the report but also criticized the report for taking a short term approach, which they believe should have been complemented with the recommendation of reducing meat consumption.

#Act4FarmAnimals

EXPORTS OF LIVE ANIMALS TO THIRD COUNTRIES

The export of live animals to EU Third Countries has always been a major source of animal suffering. Turkey is a major importing country for EU livestock through its Bulgarian border checkpoint Kapikule where animals arrive exhausted after a trip of thousands of kilometres across the EU.



This checkpoint is not equipped to unload the animals or provide them with feed, water and shelter, exposing animals to extreme temperatures. An investigation carried out from 2010 till 2015 found 70% of trucks passing the Bulgarian border “not compliant” with the provisions laid down in the EU Transport Regulation ((EC) 1/2005).

In April 2016, this situation further worsened when due to the Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), the only control post left at the Bulgarian border was closed.

Previously to the disease outbreak, this control post was at least used by the Bulgarian Competent Authorities to send back irregular consignments, to unload animals and to provide them with basic care. Today, in the absence of alternatives, official veterinarians are forced to allow the continuation of live animal transports that even most severely infringe the Council Regulation 1/2005, to continue to Turkey.

Eurogroup for Animals calls for the temporary closure of the Bulgarian exit point of Kapitan Andreevo, until proper facilities, equipped to accept all the animals sent to Turkey, are built up.

#Act4LabAnimals

SWEDEN BUDGETS APPROX. €1.5 MILLION FOR ALTERNATIVES EACH YEAR FOR THE NEXT 4 YEARS

Excellent news coming from Sweden! Mid-September the Swedish government announced it will from next year until 2020 provide approximately 1.5 million Euro towards the development of



alternative methods and for the set up and running of a centre of excellence, a so-called 3R-center.

The aim is to strengthen and coordinate efforts to develop alternatives to animal experiments. In Sweden, every year more than 400,000 animals are used for animal testing. Let's hope other countries will follow as it is an obligation under the Directive 2010/63/EU for member states to contribute towards alternative methods.

#Act4Wildlife

SCOTLAND'S COMMITMENT TO BAN WILD ANIMALS IN CIRCUSES

In its new proposed programme for Government 2016/17, the Scottish Parliament has pledged to introduce a Bill to end the use of wild animals in travelling circuses in Scotland.

This follows decades of campaigning



and lobbying for a ban by Scottish Organisation OneKind and the Born Free Foundation. Scotland will be the ninth country in the EU to ban wild animals in circuses, with bans already in place in Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Netherlands, and Slovenia. Partial bans are in place in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, and Sweden.

#FurFreeEU ESTONIAN FASHION DESIGNERS SUPPORT A BAN ON FUR FARMING

For the first time in Estonia, local fashion designers stand up to support a ban on fur farms in a campaign run by animal advocacy organization Loomus. This announcement appears against the background of long-term campaign “I am on the side of animals!” aiming for a legislative fur farming ban in Estonia. An international petition to ban fur farms in Estonia has already gathered more than 28,000 signatures.

Through their fur free claim, Estonian fashion designers join famous high-end brands and store chains such as Armani, Hugo Boss, Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Stella McCartney, H&M, Esprit, Lindex, Etnies, O'Neill and another 300 companies across the world.

Today, fur farming is banned in the United Kingdom, Austria, Croatia, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Bulgaria and partially banned in Denmark, Switzerland, Sweden, Italy and New Zealand.



THE EU ENJOYS ONE OF THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF LEGAL ANIMAL WELFARE PROTECTION IN THE WORLD. INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS WITH NON-EU COUNTRIES, WHICH ALMOST DOUBLED IN THE LAST DECADE, HOWEVER PUTS THIS SITUATION AT RISK. WE ARE THEREFORE JOINING FORCES TO ENSURE THAT EU TRADE RELATIONS DO NOT WATER DOWN OUR “ACQUIS” AND REFLECT THE MASSIVE SUPPORT OF EU CITIZENS TO THE FACT THAT IMPORTED ANIMAL PRODUCTS SHOULD MEET EUROPEAN STANDARDS (EUROBAROMETER, 2016).

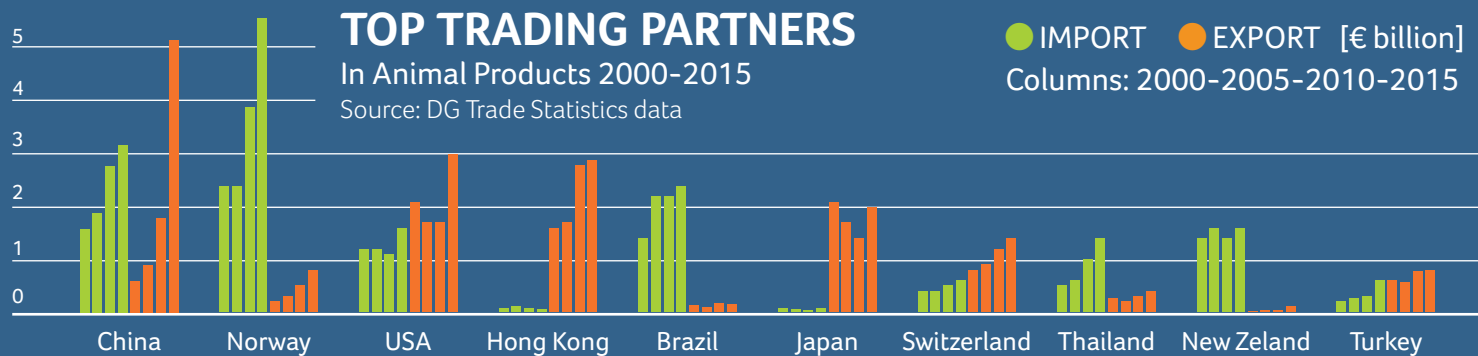






JOINING FORCES

FOR ANIMAL WELFARE IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE



In 2014, the World Trade Organization ruled that the EU's ban on imports of seal products was justifiable under the world trading rules and the animal welfare community celebrated this historic moment. It was the first time the 'public morals exception' took precedent over free trade.

Because citizens who care for animals organised themselves through animal welfare NGOs, they were able to successfully influence a seemingly distant and unreachable institution thought to be driven by pragmatism of national administrations and commercial interests of transnational corporations.

The WTO "Seals case" is only the beginning for bringing animal welfare to the international trade policy agenda (the EU common commercial policy in particular) and fully achieving this will require a long-term joint effort.

JOINING FORCES WITHIN EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS

Despite space for improvement, animals bred, raised, kept, handled, transported, and slaughtered in the EU enjoy one of the highest levels of welfare protection in the world. But the EU market does not exist in a vacuum. International trade in animals and animal products with non-EU countries almost doubled in the last decade and amounted to over 65 billion euros in 2015. Imports rose from 21 billion euros in 2005 to over 30 billion euros in 2015. Exports rose from over 18 billion euros in 2005 to 35 billion euros in 2015. This trend is likely to continue and intensify as world trade, including in agricultural products, grows twice as fast as global economic growth on average and the EU continues to negotiate comprehensive free trade agreements.

The peculiarity of trade in animal products vis-à-vis animal welfare comes from the fact that a frozen half carcass cannot in practice be checked to determine how the animal was treated on the farm or at the slaughterhouse. Unlike other sanitary issues - for example residues of hormones – an unlabelled free range egg is not differentiable from an egg of a battery-caged hen. Governments (of developing countries in particular) need both incentives and assistance to fight poaching and illegal trade in protected animals. Businesses of all sorts need incentives both from consumers and from governments to improve animal welfare.

International trade agreements and their implementation provide scope to manage all of the above but this has not so far materialised. In particular, trade policy can formalise technical assistance and can incentivise partner countries to protect animal welfare by demanding and enforcing compliance with European animal welfare standards as a pre-condition to enjoying low or no tariffs when exporting to the EU. Much cooperative work is required on both sides to achieve this.

Initially four and now five Eurogroup for Animals member organisations joined forces with our organisation to do something about this. The resulting Trade & Animal Welfare Project housed in Eurogroup for Animals pioneers by identifying policy problems in trade and animal welfare, finding solutions and advocating for use of these solutions in practice. Moreover, it will aim at anchoring animal welfare technical assistance in EU trade agreements and securing resources to deliver a real change in developing countries.

The expertise and networks of the five project partners will play a role of paramount importance here – both in resource spending and joining forces for improvement on the ground.

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

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

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

International trade in animals and animal products with non-EU countries almost doubled in the last decade and amounted to over

65 billion euros in 2015

Imports rose from 21 billion euros in 2005 to over 30 billion euros in 2015. Exports rose from over 18 billion euros in 2005 to 35 billion euros in 2015

JOINING FORCES WITHIN WIDER CIVIL SOCIETY

It is no surprise that animal welfare is only one of many areas affected by international trade. Just within the agri-universe, Brussels buzzes with NGOs dealing with issues ranging from the protection of the name “Champagne” to promoting organic farming. All these NGOs share the belief that the latest European Commission trade strategy “Trade for All” is promising but is far from delivering for “All”. We are joining forces with our colleagues to have our and, more importantly, the animals’ voices heard amongst the buzz surrounding EU trade policy.

Our umbrella organisation is increasingly recognised for its trade work and we have a foot in the door with the newly formed Brussels coalition on trade and several advisory bodies to the EU trade negotiators. These are just a few examples in a complex network that needs to be connected to influence the current and future EU common commercial policy.

JOINING FORCES THROUGHOUT THE EU!

Developments in EU Member States are regaining weight in trade policy decision-making. Brexit and upcoming general elections in the Netherlands, France, Germany and elsewhere create the need to advocate on a national level. Our network needs to join forces to understand the interlinkages in order to be able to exert a concerted push when needed.

The Trade & Animal Welfare Project brings about this understanding and will offer tools to transfer knowledge. This means we need to invest in research, online courses and, if there is interest, an event on the why, what, and how of trade and animal welfare. Together we need to build on the success of the Seals case and capture trade that is truly “for All”.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

FOLLOW OUR WORK FOR ANIMAL WELFARE





TIME TO GIVE PROTECTION TO RABBITS FARMED FOR MEAT IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Elena NALON, Programme leader – Farm animals

The EU is a major producers of rabbit meat worldwide. According to recent data provided by COPA-COGECA, in 2014 we produced 250,000 tons of rabbit meat. Rabbit welfare is not covered by specific EU legislation, and the industry is fighting hard to avoid stricter rules. An own initiative report by MEP Stefan Eck asking for a parliamentary resolution on minimum standards for the protection of farmed rabbits is being fiercely opposed by the industry and by some sectors of the scientific community, who swarmed in defence of the sector, claiming that no legislation can be passed in the absence of more research.

Which science should we use? The European Commission (DG SANTE) has its own scientific body, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), which relies on expert groups of scientists to express opinions on several topics relative to public health and animal welfare. In 2005, EFSA published an opinion on the “Impact of current housing and husbandry system on the health and welfare of farmed domestic rabbits”. It highlights a number of demonstrated or potential welfare problems associated with current methods of rabbit farming. While several areas require more research, EFSA nonetheless drew several conclusions, based on existing scientific evidence, on the important animal welfare challenges in current rabbit farming systems.

Cages or enclosures for rabbits should enable animals at all stages of life to carry out natural behaviours; grouping growing rabbits is important as they are social animals; hygienic and safe enrichment can reduce mental suffering; fibrous feed is important to maintain gut health; sore hocks should be prevented by adapting housing; better housing, management and hygiene should be used to reduce the use of antimicrobial and anticoccidial agents.

The high incidence of gastroenteric and respiratory diseases, leading to extremely high mortality rates, is another aspect that needed urgent action, according to EFSA. We certainly need to continue investigating the needs of rabbits. However, several important shortcomings were already clear in 2005. How much evidence will be considered sufficient to accept that it is time to change an outdated industry?

Eurogroup for Animals is coordinating with other EU animal welfare organisations that are working on rabbit welfare in different Member States. This collaboration will serve to raise the issue at the Institutional level, and to bring the attention of the members of the EP Agri Committee on the welfare of farm rabbits.



LET’S KEEP THE EU ZOOS DIRECTIVE ALIVE!

Ilaria DI SILVESTRE, Programme leader – Wildlife

As part of its Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT), the European Commission recently started the evaluation of EU Directive 1999/22/EC relating to the keeping of wild animals in zoos (hereinafter “the Zoos Directive”).

The REFIT evaluation looks at whether the Directive is proportionate and fit for purpose, and is delivering as expected. Specifically, it assesses the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance and EU added value of the legislation. The main objective of the REFIT - a rolling programme to keep the entire stock of EU legislation under review- is to make EU law simpler and less costly. Consequently, the evaluation could dangerously result in the Commission’s decision to repeal the Directive, should its added value not be the clear output of the process.

The Zoos Directive has been weakly implemented by Member States, mainly because the vital provisions of the Directive specified under Art.3 are only vaguely defined and very superficially approached also in the majority of the national implementing laws. However, this Directive is the only EU legislation that has the power to restrict some inappropriate practices in zoological parks, a role that has been facilitated by the recent publication of the EU Good Practices document. Consequently, the broad participation to the EC consultation is crucial to demonstrate large support to the scope of the Directive.

As specified by the Commission, the objectives of the consultation are: gathering information and data; Informing and enabling feedback, giving the possibility to a broad range of stakeholders to provide feedback and perceptions on how the Directive is put into practice and if it’s achieving its goal of contributing to biodiversity conservation.

As a European stakeholder, Eurogroup for Animals is actively involved in the consultation process and has called upon its member organisations to actively provide inputs that will contribute to demonstrate that the Directive fits for purpose.





MEPS URGED TO BACK PLAN FOR BETTER EQUINE WELFARE

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

Euro-Parliamentarians have been urged by Eurogroup for Animals and its member organisations to back an initiative by Julie Girling MEP (ECR, UK), paving the way for a raft of actions to dramatically improve the welfare of equines throughout the European Union.

Mrs Girling, a longstanding champion of better equine welfare, recently outlined the key elements of her initiative to Members of the Parliament’s Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals in Strasbourg, which stem from a ground-breaking report outlining the challenges facing Europe’s equine sector, “Removing the Blinkers”, produced by Eurogroup for Animals in 2015.

After the Intergroup meeting in Strasbourg, Mrs Girling, who has been working extensively with Eurogroup for Animals on her initiative, said: *“All too often, it is mere ignorance that leads to poor welfare conditions for individual horses and donkeys in Europe; however the animals may be used. Sadly, this ignorance also carries a financial cost, often leading to underproductive or sick animals that all too often become a burden. Yet it should be the other way around – happy, healthy equines should only add value to rural businesses and bring joy to their owners too”.*

The equine sector already adds over €100bn to the EU’s economy each year, and is the largest rural employer in many Member States. Yet it could do so much more if our equines were better cared for. The Commission wants to work on non-legislative initiatives during its five year term, and wants to create new jobs and economic opportunities. Adding to this that Europe’s citizens want to see more action on animal welfare, we have a golden opportunity to improve the lives of millions of equines across the Union.

This draft report, if adopted by the European Parliament, will go a long way to addressing some of the most basic welfare concerns facing equines in Europe, and particularly with regards to the treatment of working equidae.



INFLUENCING THE REVIEW OF THE DIRECTIVE ON THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS USED FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES

Kirsty REID, Programme leader – Animals in science

According to Article 58 of Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes, the Commission shall review the Directive taking into account advancements in alternative methods, in particular non-human primates by 10 Nov 2017.

The review comes at a difficult time where experience and information is lacking. There was late transposition of the Directive by many Member States which means limited experience. So far no EU statistics are published under the new Directive (2019) and the Commission report on the implementation of the Directive in the member states is also only due in 2019.

The review process started in May this year through a targeted stakeholder consultation. Questionnaires were sent to target audiences representing the animal-use community, Member State authorities and EU stakeholder organisations (including animal welfare).

Furthermore, the Commission have requested additional updates in particular for non-human primates from the Scientific Committee on Health, Environment and Emerging Risks (SCHEER) and an update on the advancements in the development of alternative methods and approaches (such as EURL ECVAM reports).

The Commission review report should be ready mid-2017 with final adoption by November 2017 with possible amendments proposed where appropriate.

Eurogroup for Animals remains committed to work with the EU institutions, national authorities and to engage with all key stakeholders during the review process so as to deliver the greatest impact for animals. In particular, we now demand:

- *Stricter National measures:* Article 2 hinders scientific progress and improvements to the welfare of animals in the EU and it should be reconsidered.

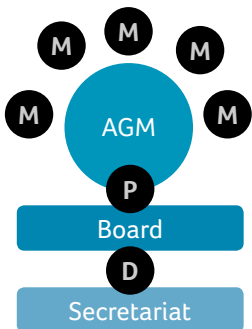
- *Alternative approaches, the 3Rs of replacement, reduction and refinement:* The Directive makes the 3Rs a firm legal requirement. The review process must examine the implementation of the 3Rs and determine if there are necessary amendments to ensure the contributions and advancement of 3R opportunities to their fullest capacity.

- *Non-human primates:* The use of primates in research and testing is an issue of special concern in Europe. Eurogroup for Animals was extremely disappointing that the Directive did not set greater restrictions on their use, or act as a motivator to replace them with humane alternatives. The review must consider this.

GET TO KNOW US

THE BOARD OF EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS

OVER THE YEARS, THE COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD HAS EVOLVED TOWARDS INCREASING REPRESENTATION OF ITS MEMBER ORGANISATIONS. WITH SEVERAL NEW BOARD MEMBERS JOINING RECENTLY AND OUR CHANGE OF PRESIDENCY, WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A SHORT PRESENTATION OF OUR BOARD.



The Board of Eurogroup for Animals gets its authority from the General Assembly, composed of voting members from our 53 member organisations. The Board is currently made up of representatives from 12 member organisations, together with an independent Treasurer.

The Board meets five times a year. It is responsible for the good implementation of the Strategic Plan adopted by the General Assembly. It strives to represent the interest of the entire membership and ensures the efficiency of operations through the secretariat of Eurogroup for Animals.



President

Britta Riis

Dyrenes Beskyttelse (CEO)



Vice President

Philip Lymbery

Compassion in World Farming (Chief Executive)



Honorary Treasurer

Chris Carey



Board member

Michel Vandebosch

GAIA (President)



Board member

Helmut Dungler

VIER PFOTEN (CEO)



Non-voting BM

David Bowles

RSPCA (Head of Public Affairs)



Board member

Roman Kolar

Deutscher Tierschutzbund (Deputy Director)



Board member

Roberto Bennati

LAV (CEO)



Board member

Camilla Björkbom

Djurens Ratt (President)



Board member

Mai Kivela

Animalia (Executive Director)



Board member

Elodie Gérôme-Delgado

Fondation Brigitte Bardot (Deputy Director)



Board member

Peter Verdaasdonk

Dierenbescherming (Director)



Board member

Lucien Bildgen

Lëtzebuurger Déiereschutzliga (President)



Honorary Ambassador

Peter-Davies

OUR MEMBERS

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Eurogroup for Animals 2016 Campaign4Animals Award

The Annual EU4Animals, Corporate4Animals and Campaign4Animals awards are a much awaited highlight of Eurogroup for Animals' Annual General Assembly. Every year, they allow us to congratulate and showcase how an EU decision-maker, company or charity in Europe made a major difference for animal welfare throughout the year.

The Campaign4Animals award is a special one as it is conceived to honour a Eurogroup for Animals member organisation's particularly impactful campaign. Member organisations are invited to present their campaigns at our Annual General Meeting and compete for the prestigious award by mobilising the support of their peers at the event. It is a chance for animal advocates to share successes and showcase results about the important work undertaken nationally to protect animals.

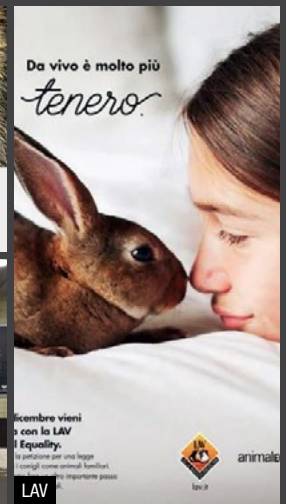
On 22 June, 8 of our member organisations took the mike and presented one of their key campaigns of the year:



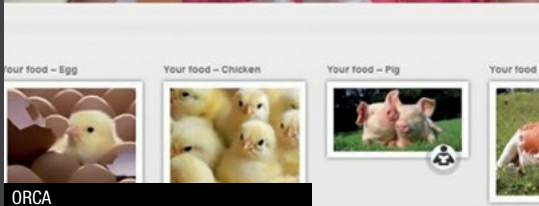
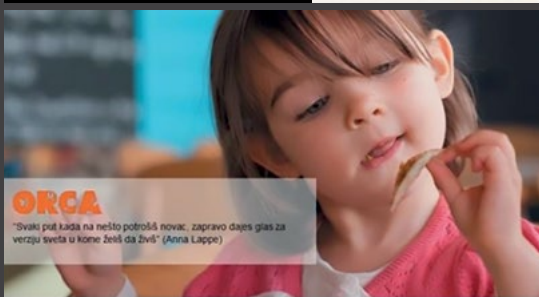
AAP Animal Advocacy and Protection



Animal Defenders International



Deutscher Tierschutzbund



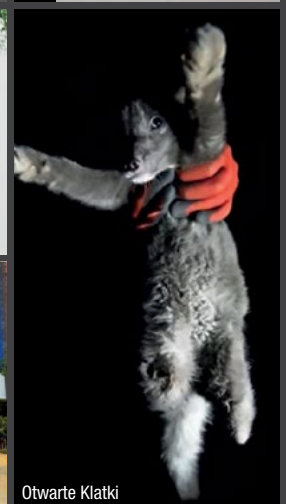
ORCA



Christine van Horen,
Office Manager,
responsible of the
organisation of Annual
event and Annual
General Assembly



CIWF



Otwarte Klatki



Otwarte Klatki

WINNER OF EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS CAMPAIGN AWARD 2016:

Member Organisation **Otwarte Klatki**, "Open cages – Two fox cubs, five paws", Poland.

SUPPORT US

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

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

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



CONTACT:

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Development Manager

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WE ARE SOCIAL

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12 million people

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