EUROGROUP MAGAZINE



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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

NEW PERSPECTIVES FOR ANIMALS

The first meeting of the EU Platform on animal welfare in June was a historic moment. 75 participants from EU member states, the European Commission, academia, industry, official bodies such as the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and of course Eurogroup for Animals and six of its member organisations came together to discuss the state of play on animal welfare in Europe. A full day was solely dedicated to those whose well-being is so dear to us - the billions of pigs, chickens, dogs, horses and other animals who direly need the EU to step up its efforts in better protecting them.

As the Platform has to prove itself in two years, it is paramount to make sure that concrete results for animals will be delivered during this time. Together with our members and allies, we call for dedicated action for animals during transport, an end to pig mutilations and the puppy trade, improved equine and rabbit welfare, as well as a method of production labelling. We trust that the Platform will break the stalemate on these issues as we see so many opportunities to drive positive change for animals.

Over 1 million citizens are also calling for positive change for animals during live transport. It was heart-warming to witness such strong support for our 2016 pan-European flagship campaign #StoptheTrucks which aimed at ending long distance animal transportation. This strong signal from citizens should convince the EU and national decision makers alike that it is high time to replace out of date live animal transport by the transportation of meat and carcasses.



2017 is also the year of our new flagship campaign End Pig Pain as millions of young piglets are enduring painful mutilations on a daily basis. Despite the existence of EU law which prohibits painful tail docking as well as a declaration to end cruel surgical castration, progress is slow and these animals are suffering immensely. Eurogroup for Animals and its members are campaigning across Europe to expose the suffering of pigs and encourage citizens to call on their national agriculture ministers to act. Please do join us at www.endpigpain.eu

Continued persistence on improving animal welfare does yield positive change, which became very clear in Belgium where after 22 years of campaigning by our member GAIA, the Flanders and Walloon governments decided to ban slaughter without stunning. These are encouraging results which underline the importance of continued campaigning efforts.

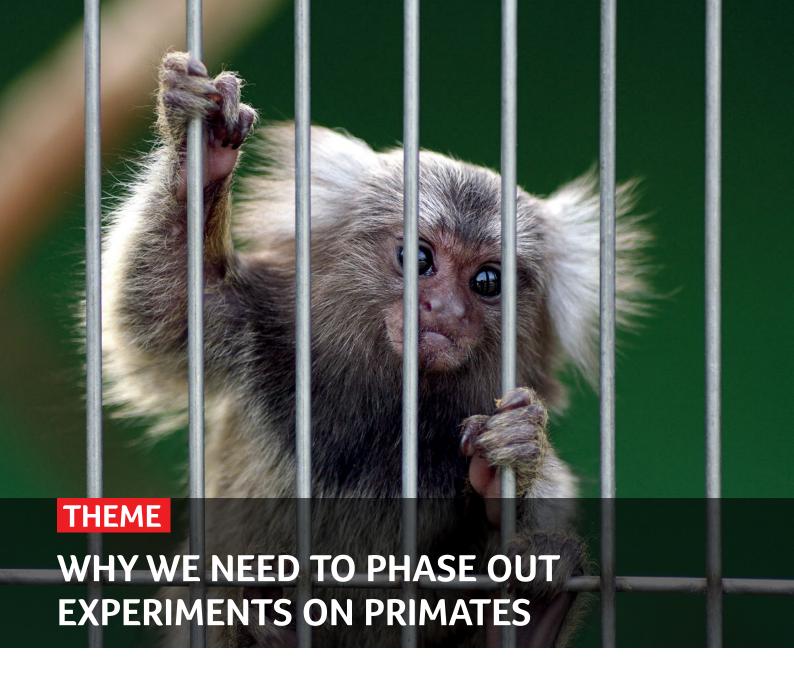
In building a Europe that cares for animals your support is of instrumental value. So please do get in touch and join our work at www.eurogroupforanimals.org

I hope our summer magazine will inspire you!



Reineke Hameleers Director, Eurogroup for Animals





Non-human primates (hereafter referred to as primates) possess high levels of social and cognitive capabilities and have complex behavioural needs. For this reason, their use in scientific research poses serious ethical issues. Across many countries, primates are used in invasive research and testing, which cause them pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm. Moreover, studies involving primates can often be long-term, involve repeated interventions, and may include practices such as food and fluid restriction. This results in widespread public concern.

In the EU and worldwide, primates are used mainly in the development and safety testing of pharmaceuticals and medical devices, in research into infectious diseases and potential treatments, and for neuroscience studies aiming to understand how the brain functions. Whilst EU Directive 2010/63 is often described as limiting the purposes for which experiments on primates can be carried out, due to various exemptions in the legislative text, in practice there is little in the way of restriction. The use of wild-caught monkeys however, is prohibited.

The value and translatability of data obtained from many studies using animals is being increasingly questioned."

Advocates of animal free research argue that in many cases animal tests, including those involving primates, fail to reflect what is subsequently observed in humans. In spite of primates' genetic similarities with us, major factors exist, such as exposure, species sensitivity and different immune responses, which could strongly influence the relevance of these tests for investigating human biology.

8,898 procedures

in the EU in 2014 on primates

Primates sourced from overseas breeders

(e.g. Mauritius and China)

UK, Germany and France

Highest number of procedures using primates

For example, 95 percent of drugs considered to be safe and effective in animals then fail in human clinical trials"

Fortunately, a number of organisations around the world are supporting a paradigm shift in science by investing in the development of alternative non-animal technologies. These, being based on human-relevant data, have the potential to be more effective and deliver true innovation.

Recently, the debate about primates in science gained renewed attention as the European Commission gave a mandate to the Scientific Committee on Health Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER) to issue a scientific opinion for reviewing evidence on the topic ,*The need for non-human primates in biomedical research, production and testing of products and devices'*. The SCHEER scientific opinion is part of a more comprehensive review process of EU Directive 2010/63, which will be concluded with the publishing of a report at the end of 2017. SCHEER considered the need for continuing primate use, and concluded that a total ban is not yet feasible. However, Eurogroup for Animals believes that the analysis did not provide a challenging or critical analysis of the value of specific current primate 'models', nor provide robust evidence to substantiate many of its claims and statements.

The potential of non-animal methods continues to be greatly underestimated by the scientific community, and the limitations of current primate 'models' remains insufficiently acknowledged and communicated. It is crucial to start identifying and consequently stop funding research fields involving primates which result in no scientific, medical or social benefit. This, supported by improved knowledge sharing, would constitute the first necessary steps of a timetable to ending primate use. Implementing such a concrete strategy will require not only the continued cooperation among animal welfare advocacy groups but also the involvement of industries, funding bodies, governments as well as the EU institutions in a constructive multi-level dialogue.

As it is also being concluded by the Dutch Rathenau Institute in a recent study examining the necessity of primate research, non-animal science guarantees better results for humans. Supporting this new approach to science will ultimately deliver higher progress and innovation while allowing us to phase out animal research on primates. The Rathenau report supports Eurogroup for Animals' views that the decision to phase out primate research should be taken at political level.





JOUKE KNOL

COUNSELOR FOR VETERINARY AND PHYTOSANITARY AFFAIRS & SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION, PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF THE NETHERLANDS TO THE EU

EU PLATFORM ON ANIMAL WELFARE: ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE

The Netherlands is part of the informal 'Vught Alliance' - a group of Member States who coordinate their actions at EU level in relation to animal welfare - and who have been instrumental in calling for the establishment of a Platform since 2014. When the Dutch Presidency of the Council of the EU came around in the latter half of 2015, one of their main priorities was to realise this ambition, and much of this work fell to their diplomat for veterinary issues in Brussels, Jouke Knol. Mr Knol leaves his post in Brussels this summer after four years, and here reflects on the establishment of the Platform, its challenges and future.

What is the ultimate goal with the Platform on animal welfare? What do you think constitutes success in terms of results/achievements?

To start with, I think it is fair to call the establishment of the Platform already a success and something to thank Commissioner Andriukaitis for. He has been advocating this Platform strongly within the Commission services. But, of course, it is not enough to just have the Platform and not have concrete results. So I guess the Platform

will be successful if is participants decide and follow up on concrete actions that contribute to the three pillars: better implementation, global promotion of EU standards and voluntary and value adding initiatives. And the goal of the Platform is to bring all governments and stakeholders together to find solutions to welfare issues that are still unsolved. The European Commission under Juncker has no intention to develop a new strategy or new legislation, so the Platform is currently the vehicle with which all of us have to manage.

There is no new legislation regarding animal welfare in this political term. How do you see the future of animal welfare legislation? Will we go more and more towards guidance in the medium-long term, or will there/could there be a revival of animal welfare legislation in the next term?

The future of animal welfare legislation does not look bright at this moment, however we must realise that the EU has gone through a very rough last 10 years. This means that when the EU is sailing in quieter waters and people are experiencing more stability, the grounds for further development of animal welfare legislation may become more fertile. In the meantime, the intensive work done until now to keep animal welfare on the political EU agenda needs to continue if one wants to make a change. It is a bit of an uphill battle, but progress can be made.

At the time of the interview, the Commission is examining the establishment of sub groups for the Platform to take work forward on certain areas. Whilst we do not know what work will be taken forward in this manner, but how do you see such sub groups operating? Could you envisage some being led by member states rather than the Commission?

It is the prerogative of the Commission, but yes, why not? Or by the industry, or maybe a joint chairmanship of an NGO and the industry. The Platform can prove itself to be effective if it manages to release the energy and creativity of member states and civil society. This can be achieved by putting them in the drivers' seat. I can imagine that the sub groups work on concrete plans containing actions, timelines and actors. The Commission should however make sure that these plans have sufficient time and meetings to be developed and also monitored and followed up. There is a risk that with the current two year Platform and only a few meetings a year, it will be hard to get substantial results.

Some MEPs have expressed concern at the lack of their involvement in the Platform. Might there be scope for collaboration with relevant MEPs or the Animal Welfare Intergroup when work programmes have been established?

Yes. This will also help the Commission, which is also entitled to do so. Maximise transparency, and again: use the 'outside' energy. Keep them out and the Commission will be spending too much times on answering letters and dealing with resolutions.

How is it foreseen that the Platform and its sub groups will interact with the new Union Reference Centres for Animal Welfare when they are established in due course?

The Union Reference Centres for Animal Welfare could possibly be helpful in providing the Platform with their expertise in the field. I just hope that the Commission continues the Platform also after Juncker and that the Union Reference Centres for Animal Welfare will actually be able to support the Platform's activities.





Andreas Frler Senior Political Adviser

EU4ANIMALS AWARD 2017

Every year Eurogroup for Animals congratulates an EU decision-maker who has made a significant difference for animal welfare throughout the year. 2017 saw the award dedicated to two outstanding individuals for their amazing contribution.



Eurogroup for Animals Annual Event, 21 June 2017, Brussels

Marlene Mizzi MEP (S&D, MT)

Some 2016 achievements:

- Co-host of a Parliamentary event on the Welfare of Ducks during Foie Gras Production.
- ◆ Host of the Conference "Rights of the Voiceless" in Malta to encourage the Maltese Presidency to take up animal welfare related work.
- Instrumental in asking for a European Parliament research study on "Animal Welfare in the EU".
- Taken the lead to promote a ban of the use of wild animals in circuses.

Stefan Eck MEP (GUE/NGL, DE)

Some 2016 achievements:

- The uncontested "Mr. Animal Welfare of the European Parliament".
- ◆ The successful adoption of his own initiative report on minimum standards for the protection of farmed rabbits which was adopted by a comfortable majority of the House in mid-March.
- The most regular attendee of all Animal Welfare Intergroup members.

ANIMAL NEWS

IN EUROPE

#Act4Wildlife

BILL TO BAN WILD ANIMALS IN TRAVELLING CIRCUSES INTRODUCED IN SCOTLAND

On 10 May, the Scottish Environment Secretary introduced a Bill which makes it an offence for a circus operator to cause or permit a wild animal to be used in a travelling circus in Scotland, and allows for the enforcement of such an offence.

The Bill has been introduced on ethical grounds. Public concern in Scotland has grown following the story of Anne the elephant, who was abused by a keeper at a circus in England, and by the recent overwintering of circus big cats in Scotland which were temporarily on public display in their travelling accommodation.

In 2014, the Scottish government ran a public consultation on proposals to ban the use of wild animals in circuses on ethical grounds. A total of 2,043 responses were received, overwhelmingly in favour of a ban with 98 percent of the respondents agreeing that the use of wild animals for performances in travelling circuses should be banned in Scotland. The Bill will now need to go through the Scottish Parliament before coming into force at some point next year.

In June, Latvia and Romania also saw a total ban on the use of wild animals in circuses. The large majority of European countries have already adopted restrictions on using wild animals in circuses.

#Act4FarmAnimals

HARROWING FOOTAGE REVEALS THE AGONY OF PIGS STUNNED WITH CO₂ AT A FRENCH SLAUGHTERHOUSE

A camera placed by Eurogroup for Animals member organisation L214 inside a CO₂ stunning box at the Houdan slaughterhouse in France reveals the suffering experienced by pigs stunned with this method. As the pigs are lowered into the CO₂ pit, they frantically try to escape, experience convulsions, gasping, and vocalisations. All these reactions are intrinsic to the method used, as CO² irritates the airways of pigs and causes a sense of suffocation and panic. This method of stunning, which is very controversial in terms of animal suffering, is nonetheless widely adopted by slaughterhouses for reasons of meat quality. Nearly four million pigs (around 15 to 18 percent of the total number of pigs slaughtered in France), are stunned with this method.

In 2015, the L214 investigation into cruel practices at a slaughterhouse in the French town of Alès ultimately led to its closure. The then Minister of Agriculture Stéphane Le Foll ordered all slaughterhouses in France to be re-inspected and also established a parliamentary investigation commission. In January 2017, the National Assembly voted to make surveillance cameras mandatory for all slaughterhouses.

#FurFreeEU

VICTORY: GERMANY ENDS FUR FARMING!



In a huge victory for animals, at the beginning of June German leaders voted to put fur factory farming to an end. The law introduces fur farming regulations that are so strict that raising animals for fur will no longer be viable in Germany and will inevitably cause the remaining fur farms to close down. After a five year transition-period, the last six mink farms in Germany will finally need to close their doors.

Currently, parliamentary bills to prohibit fur farming are being discussed in Belgium, the Czech Republic and Luxembourg. Stricter regulations have caused fur farming to end in Japan and Switzerland and, in the future will end mink farming in Spain. Fox and chinchilla farming have already been phased out in Germany, due to stricter regulations, as in Sweden.

The first countries to introduce the ban were the United Kingdom (UK) in 2000 and Austria in 2004. Other countries that have banned fur farming include Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Republic of Macedonia, the Netherlands and Serbia.

#Act4Wildlife

FRANCE BANS CAPTIVE BREEDING OF DOLPHINS AND KILLER WHALES

France has banned the breeding in captivity of dolphins and killer whales, together with the keeping of all whales, dolphins and porpoises in captivity, except for orcas and bottlenose dolphins already held. The new rules ban direct contact between animals and the public, such as swimming with dolphins, and require pools holding the animals to be made significantly larger. Establishments have six months to comply with some of the rules, and they must expand their pools within three years.

#Act4Pets

NEUTERING AND SPAYING OF CATS SOON TO BE MANDATORY IN THE BRUSSELS REGION

In May, the government of the Brussels-Capital Region approved a new law mandating the neutering and spaying of all cats within Brussels as of 1 January 2018. This new law will help to spare tens of thousands of animals from a life of misery and premature death, and help already overcrowded shelters.

Whilst all cats born after 1 January 2018 should be neutered or spayed, a transitional period of six months is provided for cats born before 2018. The text also specifies exceptions for professional and occasional breeders who can apply for derogations. The draft decree will still have to be presented to the Conseil d'Etat before finally being submitted for adoption at second reading to the Council of Ministers.

#Act4FarmAnimals

HISTORIC MILESTONE: FLEMISH PARLIAMENT VOTES TO BAN RITUAL SLAUGHTER WITHOUT STUNNING



42 days after the Walloon Parliament, the Flemish Parliament is also ending the unnecessary and avoidable suffering of hundreds of thousands of sheep and cattle currently being slaughtered without prior stunning. The Flemish decree requires that as of 2019, sheep must be rendered unconscious before slaughter by means of reversible electric stunning, called electronarcosis. For cattle, stunning will take place immediately after the animal's throat is cut (postcut stunning) until the method of reversible stunning is adapted for the particular breeds of cattle in Belgium.

On 17 May, the Walloon Parliament had already unanimously approved a ban on slaughter without stunning. Mandatory, reversible stunning will be required in Wallonia as of 1 September 2019 for sheep, goats and cattle.

Elsewhere in Europe, Denmark, Slovenia and Sweden already require animals to be rendered unconscious before bleeding. Austria, Estonia, Latvia and Slovakia mandate stunning to take place immediately after the animal's throat is cut. Stunning before slaughter is also required in Iceland, Norway and Switzerland.

#Act4FarmAnimals

SEVERAL POSITIVE MOVES IN THE EU TO STOP THE USE OF BATTERY EGGS



Over the past months, several companies have announced that they will phase out the use of battery eggs. This is mainly thanks to the mobilisation of animal advocacy organisations who have continuously denounced the horrific conditions of caged hens.

The food service group Burger Brands Belgium – owner of the fast food chain Quick and the Burger King brand in Belgium – has informed Belgian Eurogroup for Animals member GAIA that it will ban battery eggs as of 1 September 2018.

Carrefour Italy has declared that as of 1 March 2017, all of its 477 supermarkets will no longer sell eggs from caged hens. Carrefour Italy is promoting this campaign to raise awareness and improve animal welfare standards on laying hens, also in their franchise shops.

At the end of May L214 released a new video showing the horrific conditions of laying hens in an industrial farm in France. Thanks to L214's campaign, the Panzani group (including Lustucru Frais), which used eggs coming from this farm, published a commitment to phase out caged eggs in their supply chain by 2025 at the latest.







On 4 May 2017 Eurogroup for Animals and several members launched *End Pig Pain*. The campaign aims to sensitise EU citizens to the plight of European pigs, and to mobilise them to take action, calling on national agriculture ministers to stop pig mutilation. This campaign will show the urgency to fully enforce existing pig welfare laws and eventually revise the EU Pigs Directive. Such a revision should include the phasing out of surgical pig castration by 2024.

WE NEED MORE

Painful procedures on piglets are regulated by the EU Pigs Directive (2008/120/EC), which states that tail docking and tooth clipping must not be carried out routinely and that farmers must address environmental conditions and management issues, and provide all pigs with appropriate manipulable materials before asking for derogations.

The EU Pigs Directive consolidates previous pieces of law that already prohibited routine tail docking and tooth clipping, and therefore this ban has been in place for more than 20 years. Yet, according to a DG SANTE European Commission report on tail docking, only two countries – Finland and Sweden – are fully enforcing the ban. Information on other countries is patchy at best, and

the general picture is quite sad, especially if we consider estimates from member organisation Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) that 2.8 billion piglets may have undergone illegal tail docking since the current law came into force.

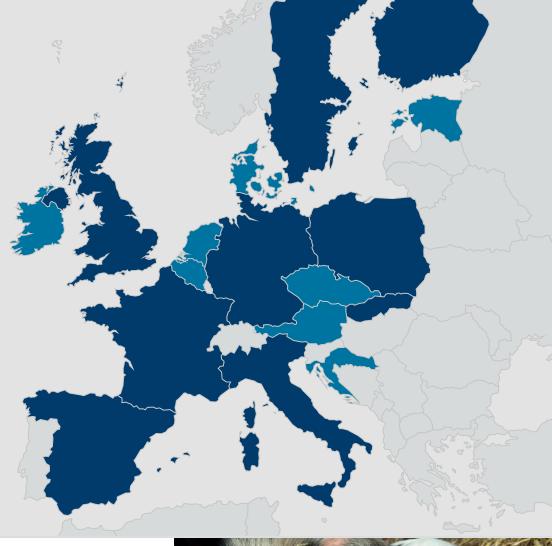
The European Commission decided to put in place a series of soft measures to tackle this failure of EU member states to enforce pig welfare law (a recommendation, a staff working document, a three-year action plan, study visits to exchange good practices). We welcome those measures, but we also believe that we need more, and faster.

2.8 billion piglets may have undergone illegal tail docking since the current legislation came into force."

WE NEED IT FASTER

This is even more apparent if we consider the failure of the 2010 European Declaration on Alternatives to the Surgical Castration of Pigs to deliver the desired milestones. This voluntary stakeholder initiative was financially and logistically supported by the Commission from 2010 to 2015, when suddenly funding and assistance were suspended due to other priorities and staff cuts. The

20 MEMBERS **OF EUROGROUP** FOR ANIMALS IN 17 COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY **LAUNCHED** (DARK BLUE) OR **HAVE PLANNED** NATIONAL **LAUNCHES** (LIGHT BLUE) IN THE COMING WEEKS. WE **EXPECT THAT SEVERAL MORE MEMBERS AND COUNTRIES WILL** JOIN AS WE GO ALONG.



Declaration is practically dead, with the nominated experts using their own financial means to meet once or twice a year, and unsurprisingly making very little progress. In the meantime, every year 77 million piglets are still surgically castrated without any form of anaesthesia and pain relief throughout the EU. In addition, according to industry sources, this number is rising: countries such as Spain, which is now relying on exports to maintain its current levels of pig production, are increasingly recurring to surgical castration to meet the requests of third countries. Voluntary agreements have failed, and it is now time to talk about a legal EU ban on this practice.

End Pig Pain is the reaction of Eurogroup for Animals to pigs suffering. Since the launch of the official website www.endpigpain.eu, where materials and videos are available in multiple languages and where citizens can sign a letter addressed to their national agricultural ministers, the campaign has already been launched by many members across Europe. The number of members promoting the campaign is expected to increase as we gain momentum, and we are ready and equipped to support them.

After the great success of #StopTheTrucks, we have had more proof (if we needed it!) of what it means to work together for a common goal.





MAKING A DIFFERENCE

FOLLOW OUR WORK FOR ANIMAL WELFARE



THE RACCOON DOG HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES OF UNION CONCERN

Ilaria Di Silvestre, Programme Leader Wildlife

In June, EU member states approved the inclusion of 12 additional animal and plant species on the EU's list of Invasive Alien Species of Union Concern. Following our ongoing lobby we are delighted that the raccoon dog (Nyctereutes procyonoides), a species that is exploited by the fur industry and inappropriately marketed as an exotic pet, is among them.

When the EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species entered into force in January 2015, it created an important new instrument to more effectively tackle the environmental and economic problems caused by animals, plants, fungi and micro-organisms that have been introduced outside their natural range. Their introduction or spread had been found to threaten or adversely impact biodiversity.

Any species added to a list of Invasive Alien Species of Union Concern (here and after "the list") is prohibited from being imported, sold, kept, transported, bred or released. EU member states must collectively decide whether each species proposed for listing meets the criteria for inclusion, working on the basis of risk assessments of their invasiveness and ability to establish themselves in several countries. By now, the list includes 49 species, with 37 species adopted in July 2016.

Despite the scientific acknowledgement that the highly invasive raccoon dog is a prime candidate for inclusion in the Union List, some EU member states – primarily those where fur production is still legally permitted as a commercial activity – have been actively pushing to remove this species from this latest list.

Eurogroup for Animals contended with the Commission and EU member states that this would have been exceptionally short-sighted and only lead to more significant animal welfare problems and greater threats to biodiversity in the long run. In addition, it would have represented a dangerous precedent and weaken the EU Regulation. We are therefore pleased that EU member states did not bow down to fur industry pressure to remove the raccoon dog from the list.

The inclusion of the raccoon dog on the list will end the trade in this highly invasive species as an exotic pet and provide for a strict system of authorisation for fur farms. Eurogroup for Animals will continue to call for clear guidance to be developed by the Commission for EU member states with regard to the humane management of invasive alien species on the list, to avoid or minimise pain, suffering and distress as explicitly requested by the Regulations.



#STOPTHETRUCKS
EXCEEDS TARGET OF
1 MILLION SIGNATURES
TO CALL FOR AN END
TO LONG DISTANCE

LIVE ANIMAL TRANSPORTATION

Francesca Porta, Programme Officer Farm Animals

The campaign was launched on the backdrop of a Eurobarometer survey showing that a staggering 94 percent of European citizens believe that protecting the welfare of farm animals is important. Every year, at least 1 billion poultry and 37 million live cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and equines are transported alive within the EU and to third countries.

Despite widespread public support and scientific evidence to change the law which governs live animal transportation over the past years, the EU has remained unchanged in its view that there is no need to revise the law as "a steady legal situation will allow EU member states and stakeholders to focus on enforcement within a stable legal framework." Systemic evidence on the grounds shows however that the current regulation is far from fit for purpose.

#StopTheTrucks, which called on EU decision makers to reduce and ultimately end long distance live animal transportation, exposed the many shortcomings of the current live animal transportation rules, which leave many animals unprotected, sick or dead during transport. This campaign gives a clear signal to the EU to end long distance transportation of live animals and replace it by transporting meat and carcasses as the only way to improve animal welfare.

Earlier this year, MEPs, EU member states and Commission officials reacted to compelling footage released by the campaign, showing breaches of European animal welfare law and international agreements concerning live animal transport from the EU to Turkey, the Middle East and northern Africa, as well as their slaughter. The investigation reveals a failure by EU officials to monitor live animal export within and across EU borders.

MEPs reacted with an official call to the European Parliament for an inquiry into this unnecessary and immoral trade of live animals. This official inquiry should look into how this trade is currently carried out, and deliver clear recommendations on how to improve animal welfare.

Later this year, the #StopTheTrucks signatures will be handed over to the European Commission as a further signal that action needs to be taken to end long distance live animal transportation. Stay tuned!

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ANIMAL WELFARE SEEN BY EUROPE AS PRIORITY TO HARNESS GLOBALISATION



Stephanie Ghislain, Trade & Animal Welfare Project Leader

Iyan Offor, Trade & Animal Welfare Project Officer

The European Commission recently released a reflection paper entitled "Harnessing Globalisation". Thanks to the hard work of Jeppe Kofod (MEP), Vice-President of the European Parliament Intergroup on Animal Welfare and Conservation, animal welfare was secured as a priority for EU trade policy in this paper. This was on the basis of a list of demands from the S&D political group for future EU policy to harness globalisation. Eurogroup for Animals has worked closely with various S&D MEPs on animal welfare and trade issues. Our advocacy efforts are therefore paying off.

"Harnessing Globalisation" follows the European Commission's White Paper on the future of Europe. This new paper contributes to the discussion on the EU's future with 27 members. There are many ways in which the EU acts globally, but trade relations is one of the most important and impactful means through which the EU communicates with other countries. It is vital that the impact of trade on animal welfare is recognised here and, thanks to Jeppe Kofod MEP, a positive step in the right direction has been made.

The paper aptly points out that globalisation and trade can be a positive force for change but that there are also challenges. It calls for the EU to enhance global governance on animal welfare, and further states that the EU's trade agreements must uphold the EU and member states' ability to achieve legitimate public policy objectives and maintain the existing EU high standards in order to protect our citizens and safeguard EU industry from unfair competition.

The paper tackles two of our three objectives for animal welfare in trade policy. It recommends that we safeguard the right to regulate, and it recommends increased cooperation. However, it does not go as far as recommending conditional liberalisation in order to protect animal welfare. Thus, the Commission has more work to do in order to solidify animal welfare as a priority in trade and globalisation policy.

It is time that the Commission fully commits to recognising that to protect animal welfare, we cannot restrict ourselves to acting domestically, but that we must tackle this problem on a global scale.



BROILER CHICKENS STILL SUFFERING BY THE BILLIONS IN EUROPE

Elena Nalon, Programme Leader Farm Animals



If we look at production and consumption trends for meat products in the EU, one sector stands out: the broiler chicken industry. The EU slaughters seven billion chickens every year. Consumption is going up, as chicken meat is affordable and perceived as healthier than red meat. It is also presented as more sustainable than other meats in terms of use of resources and emissions.

However, there is a very dark side to this business, which concerns the fate of the animals. In spite of species-specific legislation (Directive 2007/43/CE), the animals are in misery from birth to death.

Broiler chickens are victims of their own physiology. Fast growth rates cause a range of severe health problems that to all effects determine a (very short) life of intense pain and suffering. Add to this the industrialised farming conditions, whereby about 93 percent of EU broiler chickens are concentrated in 1 percent of large farms with tens of thousands of birds. You will obtain a cocktail of lameness and leg deformities, heart disease, respiratory problems due to bad air quality, and breast and footpad blisters due to the ammonia contained in wet litter. Catching and transport cause stress, pain and even death (fractures, trapped body parts, death by exhaustion or smothering). At the slaughterhouse, stunning methods are so inadequate that up to one billion chickens every year are ineffectively stunned in the EU - meaning that when their neck is cut they are still conscious.

Faced with the immense scale of this suffering, it is time for a serious reflection on our model of chicken production, and for coordinated actions to educate the public and demand better practices from the industry.

GET TO KNOW US

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As a membership organisation, Eurogroup for Animals is democratically governed by its members, and receives its mandate from them at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM is the organisation's supreme decision-making and oversight body which establishes its direction and adopts its Strategic Plan.

The General Assembly is composed of voting members from all member organisations. It delegates its authority to the Board which it elects. The Board is currently made up of representatives from 12 member organisations, together with an independent President and Treasurer.

Every year, following an Annual Event, we hold the Eurogroup for Animals AGM, gathering as many delegates from our members as possible. It is a unique opportunity to meet the Eurogroup for Animals family, and celebrate our achievements and successes.







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OUR MEMBERS

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS 2017 CAMPAIGN4ANIMALS AWARD

The Campaign4Animals award is a much awaited highlight of Eurogroup for Animals' Annual Event. It allows our network to showcase how it has made a major difference for animals throughout the year. It is an opportunity for animal advocates to share successes and results about the important work undertaken nationally to protect animals.

On 22 June, seven member organisations presented one of their key campaigns of the year:





WINNER OF EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS CAMPAIGN AWARD 2017:

Member Organisation Vier Pfoten, "40 Lives"

The campaign that triggered major changes in the bedding industry.

- O CIWF: End the Cage Age
- 2 Vier Pfoten: 40 lives
- 3 Animals International: End Live Export
- GAIA: Towards a legal (ritual) ban on slaughter without prior stunning in Belgium
- Deutscher Tierschutzbund: Animal shelters help. Help animal shelters!
- **6** The Donkey Sanctuary: Under the Skin
- Bont voor Dieren: When did you stop caring? (Waar hield de liefde op?)



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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WE ARE **SOCIAL**

F

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www.eurogroupforanimals.org

