



**THEME**

**FISH: THE FORGOTTEN ANIMALS**

**JOINING  
FORCES**

to ban the use of wild  
animals in circuses

**INTERVIEW**

Meet End Pig Pain's  
champion MEP  
Jeppe Kofod

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JOINING FORCES



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

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**Design:** BakOS DESIGN

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# EDITORIAL

Since our last magazine before the summer break, Eurogroup for Animals has been continuing its hard work on many fronts. As a result, we have achieved clear successes, two of which relate to our campaigns – *#StopTheTrucks* and End Pig Pain. Moreover, we are thrilled to have started a dedicated programme on fish welfare which is a rather unique topic on the EU agenda!

Our intense campaign work this year has paid off! Last month we handed over 1 million signatures from the *#StopTheTrucks* campaign to the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety. Thanks to the overwhelming support from EU citizens, the European Commissioner promised to put live animal transport high on the EU agenda. In addition, thanks to our efforts, a sub-group dedicated to live transport will be set up on the EU Animal Welfare Platform.

At the same time we are building momentum for pigs. For the first time in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, we organised together with our member organisation LAV, a multimedia exhibition on pig farming systems in Europe. The exhibition which consisted of striking photographs and a virtual reality experience into an industrial pig farm in Italy, welcomed many MEPs and the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety.

Last but not least, let's not forget one of the most forgotten species in our society – fish. Although scientists agree that fish do feel pain and experience stress, their welfare on farms, during slaughter and transport has not been covered by any EU law. With important reports due out from the European Commission later this year, we are preparing the ground for better measures to protect these animals.

But let's not forget – with successes also come challenges...

People sometimes ask me why very obvious, condemnable animal practises do not change. For example, there are 30 years of very poorly regulated live animal transport. We are still in breach of the EU pigs directive by tail docking and tooth clipping. And, why have we not been able to protect fish by any EU law?

During my time as an animal advocate I have learnt that often politically there are more reasons not to do something than to take action. Short term economic interests and power dynamics play an important role here. This is why Eurogroup for Animals continues with its advocacy and campaign efforts to present solutions and recommendations to make change happen for animals.

History shows us that change is possible, and we will continue to take the necessary steps to make this happen.

I hope that this magazine will inspire you to continue with us on this important journey for the welfare of animals.



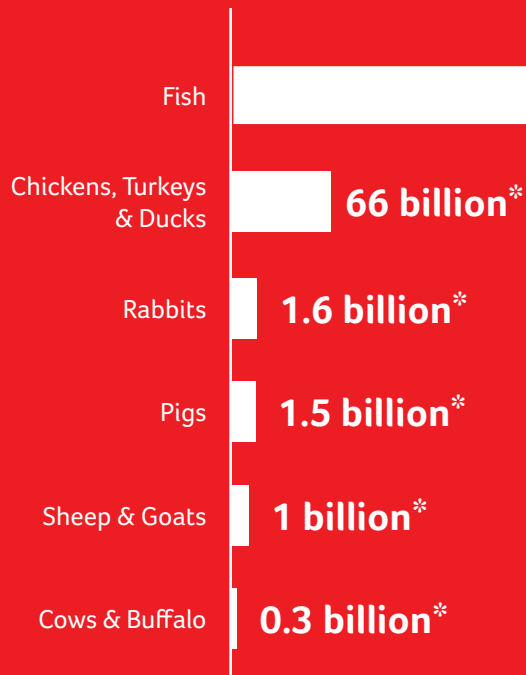
Reineke Hameleers  
Director, Eurogroup for Animals



## THEME

# FISH: THE FORGOTTEN ANIMALS

## NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED EVERY YEAR GLOBALLY



## DIFFERENT, REALLY?

An occasional, distorted glimpse through a shimmering water surface is the most common human experience of fish in their natural environment. It's quite a challenge to identify with a fish. Not only has water made these animals difficult to observe, it has given them a physical form that makes them difficult to understand. They have sensory organs that do not compare with those of terrestrial animals. 60 percent of vertebrate species are fish. In evolutionary terms, a chicken is no more closely related to a cow than a herring is to a reef shark.

Nevertheless, knowledge on the pain experience, emotional state, and sentience of fish has been developing rapidly. Contrary to the common myths around their short-term memories, some fish have been shown to avoid bait for three years after being hooked by angler fisherman just once. Many are social and spend time in groups, where they can recognise individuals and form hierarchies. In the case of the grouper and the moray eel, two different species communicate and hunt cooperatively.

*“ Fish can see colour more vividly than we can, they can smell under water, and they have more ways to communicate than any other vertebrate group.”*

## THE RIGHT TIME TO ACT

The evidence of high-level pain perception was finally demonstrated in the mid-2000s, in time for fish welfare to be included in a number of pieces of EU legislation. A major second step is coming up, with an expected European Commission report on the welfare of fish during transport and slaughter in Europe's aquaculture sector, due to be published by the end of 2017. This is the first concrete opportunity for specific and enforceable EU regulations to be made.

This is why Eurogroup for Animals has decided to join forces with 22 of its member organisations in a working group to tackle fish welfare issues. This group will work to raise awareness on fish welfare as an important issue and look at specific issues within aquaculture and wild fisheries. Foundational work includes introducing the topic to the public consciousness, through campaign work and producing consumer information on fish alternatives and higher welfare fish options. Specific issues will also be pursued through national and EU advocacy efforts.

Eurogroup for Animals will engage with the European Parliament and the Council to build pressure on the European Commission to incorporate current knowledge into existing slaughter law. Transport conditions, handling and husbandry practices are also areas where the European Commission can make progress.



**970 - 2,700 billion\*\***

\* killed for meat in 2014, FAO

\*\* finfish captured or farmed for meat annually, fishcount.org.uk. This is the only comprehensive estimate of fish number ever made, based on FAO data on catches between 1999-2007. From 2007 to 2014 fish slaughtered increased 24% by weight.

## **SLOWLY ENCOMPASSING THE VARIETY OF FISH SPECIES**

The variety of fish species is a challenge to understanding and protecting their welfare. Different species require different stocking densities that align with their natural territorial or shoaling behaviours and many environmental variables. For now, Eurogroup for Animals will focus its fish welfare work primarily on the aquaculture sector, as these species are the best understood. These systems are the most tightly controlled, with fish spending their entire lives in captivity. 25 percent of Europe's fish production (by weight) comes from aquaculture, and over 50 percent globally, with only aquaculture positioned to respond to growing demand.

But species specific knowledge of how to identify, define, measure or improve the welfare of fish in different areas will continue to be generated for the foreseeable future. The animal advocacy movement is increasingly taking up the plight and fight for fish welfare.

Eurogroup for Animals aims at giving fish their place in the public and policy welfare discourse. The common image of the three second memory of a fish, the cold, unfeeling automaton is disproven and needs to be banished from public perceptions. The desires, the emotions, the feelings, and the behaviours of fish should be known to everyone.



A **1.5m salmon** migrates hundreds or thousands of kilometres at sea before returning to spawn in its home river.



A **30cm male tilapia** will make a nest in the mud and when rival males and attractive females are near will scent the water with urine, make noises, and change colour.



When **40cm herring** shoal to feed they space themselves according to the defensive movements made by their prey, and if they have a message for their neighbours will communicate by releasing gas.



**12cm pufferfish** make symmetrical patterns in the sand 2 metres in diameter, and decorate it with shells and fine sediments. If good enough a female will lay eggs in the middle.



## INTERVIEW

# JEPPE KOFOD

MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (MEP), HEAD OF THE DANISH SOCIALISTS AND DEMOCRATS (S&D) DELEGATION, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE S&D GROUP AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT INTERGROUP ON THE WELFARE AND CONSERVATION OF ANIMALS. ONE OF THE MOST ENGAGED EU PERSONALITY FOR ANIMAL WELFARE.

### What are the main dossiers you work on as an MEP?

Apart from my work as the Vice President of the European Parliament (EP) Intergroup for the Welfare and Conservation of Animals, I serve as the co-rapporteur for the EP's special inquiry committee on tax fraud, tax evasion and money laundering. Specifically, I am presently wrapping up our investigations into the Panama Papers scandal and we will be presenting our findings and conclusions before the end of the year.

### Why is animal welfare important to you? What topics need political action at national and EU level in the coming years?

Animals are of course living, breathing, sentient beings. Capable of experiencing both joy and sadness, comfort

and fear, pleasure and pain. I firmly believe we have a fundamental responsibility to care for the animals we have in our guardianship.

This of course also holds true for farmed animals. But unfortunately, that is simply not always the case in Europe today – and that needs to change. That is what I want to use my political platform in the European Parliament to achieve this.

Specifically, I want to tackle two major issues of just clearly unacceptable animal welfare standards. Namely, industrial pig farming and long-distance live animal transports. These are two very specific issues on which we desperately need action at EU level.

### You are one of the biggest supporters of Eurogroup for Animals' campaign End Pig Pain: why is the problem of pig mutilations so important for you?

The sheer scale of the problem is definitely one of the reasons, but I am also, quite frankly, infuriated by the lack of action on this front. Routine tail docking has been illegal for more than 20 years and the Pigs Directive has been in force for over a decade. Still, we see mistreated and mutilated animals every single day. This should be cause for Europe-wide outrage.

### What is the situation in Denmark, your home country? What is the predominant model of pig farming?

That would be high-intensity, highly efficient conventional pig farming. Denmark is Europe's biggest producer of pigs



by far and that is also why I feel a special obligation to take on this task of leading the working group on pig welfare.

I think most people are shocked when they are confronted with the realities of industrial pig farming. The idyllic images conjured up by clever marketing ads are far removed from the actual workings of a typical conventional pig farm. Thanks to the excellent work and [campaign by Dyrenes Beskyttelse](#), more and more Danes are becoming aware of this fact, and when they see the realities of high-efficiency pig farming, they join in our call for change. Education really is key here.

**Do you have a personal vision for sustainable pig farming for the future?**

Yes, and it starts with simply recognising the fact that we are dealing with animals. Not machines. This sounds banal, but taking this seriously obliges you to take concrete action against unacceptable practices that occur every single day on conventional pig farms throughout Europe.

It means we need to stop cutting the tails off piglets, it means ensuring that the pigs have straw or other manipulable materials they can bite and gnaw on – instead off each other’s tails! – and it means a full stop on castration of male piglets. Workable alternatives already exist, that can keep the farmer, the consumer and the pigs happy. Furthermore, happy pigs are healthy pigs. This also means we can drastically cut down on the amount of antibiotics used in pig farming.



Andreas Erler, Senior Political Adviser



Elena Nalon, Programme Leader, Farm animals



**INTERGROUP ON THE WELFARE & CONSERVATION OF ANIMALS**

**MULTIMEDIA EXHIBITION Ending Pig Pain: working towards a more humane pig industry in the EU**

European Parliament, Strasbourg, 12-15 September 2017

*Hosted by Jeppe Kofod MEP, S&D Group with the Intergroup for the Welfare and Conservation of Animals, Eurogroup for Animals and Italian member organisation LAV.*

For the first time in the European Parliament, this multimedia exhibition allowed visitors to observe a series of striking artistic photographs of pigs in different farming systems in Europe, and to immerse themselves into the shocking reality of an industrial pig farm in Italy through a virtual reality experience.

## IN EUROPE

### #Act4Wildlife

#### BIG STEPS FOR WILD ANIMALS IN CIRCUSES IN ESTONIA AND ITALY



The bill that bans the use of wild animals in circuses passed in September, the third – and also the last – reading at the Riigikogu, the Parliament of Estonia. This is considered as the greatest victory in the history of Estonian animal protection.

Negotiations between animal advocates and the authorities to ban the use of wild animals in circuses began right after the tragic death of an elephant in 2013. The bill, that was supported by 83 members, specifies the regulations concerning the use of animals in animal exhibitions, competitions, fairs, auctions, or other public events where animals are brought together. It is only allowed to use animals of species or subspecies born into artificial conditions, whose natural behaviour or lifestyle enables the use without causing any harm to the animal's health. The list of allowed species and subspecies will be determined by an act by the Minister of Rural Affairs.

Estonian NGOs including Eurogroup for Animals member organisation Loomus will continue to work towards a ban that would prohibit the use of all animals in circuses.

At the same time, the Italian Senate approved a measure for the gradual phasing out of the use of animals in circuses as part of a bill on the entertainment sector. This is an historical step in Italy, as the present law dates from 1968. The approved text applies to all kind of travelling exhibitions. The final approval of the legislation is expected by November this year.

### #FurFreeEU

#### CZECH REPUBLIC BECOMES 14<sup>TH</sup> COUNTRY TO BAN FUR FARMING

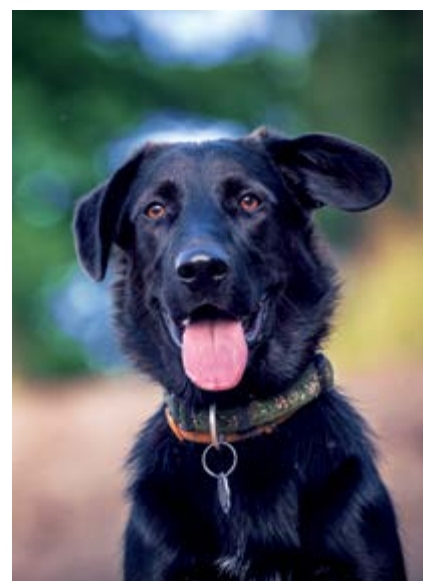


This August, the Czech Republic became the 14<sup>th</sup> country globally to completely ban fur farming, sparing around 20,000 foxes and minks every year.

The Czech Republic joins Austria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, the Netherlands, Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, the UK and five other countries in banning fur farms, with bans also being considered in Belgium and Luxembourg. Germany and Switzerland have regulations requiring such high welfare standards that they effectively make it impossible to continue farming animals for fur.

### #Act4Pets

#### ENGLAND: ANIMAL CRUELTY SENTENCES TO RISE TO FIVE YEARS IN PRISON



People in England who commit the most serious crimes of animal cruelty could from now on face up to five years in prison. The move – an increase on the current six-month maximum sentence – follows a number of cases where English courts wanted to hand down tougher sentences.

Under the government's plans, courts will retain the ability to hand out an unlimited fine and ban an offender from owning animals in the future. However, they would now also have the ability to sentence the worst cases more harshly.

The new law will also enable courts to deal more effectively with ruthless gangs involved in organised dog fights. The plans will only apply in England, as animal cruelty powers are devolved to the nations of the UK.



## #Act4FarmAnimals

### FRANCE: MEETING OF THE FIRST NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON ETHICS OF SLAUGHTERHOUSES



The National Committee on Ethics of Slaughterhouses (CNEAb) is a consultation group of the National Council of Food (CNA). It was created as a result of the investigations organised in several French slaughterhouses mainly in 2015 and 2016. It brings together members of the CNA, representatives of the slaughter industry, professional organisations of employees, animal welfare organisations (including Eurogroup for Animals member organisations), veterinarians, researchers, representatives of the cults involved in slaughter without stunning, and parliamentarians.

The mission of the Committee is to analyse societal expectations, summarise the main challenges faced by slaughtering professionals in the field of animal welfare, give an opinion on public policy and discuss the evolution of legislation and regulations on the improvement of animal protection in slaughterhouses. At the end of its first piece of work in 2018, the Committee will issue an opinion suggesting courses of action allowing better consideration of animal protection in slaughterhouses.

Animal welfare organisations participate in this committee with the ambition to denounce slaughter methods that can cause suffering, and above all to propose solutions so that the killing of the animals is

carried out with the most appropriate methods possible. In the meantime, horrific videos are still being revealed, with the latest example coming from a chicken slaughterhouse supplying one of the biggest food industry of poultry processing in France.

## #Act4FarmAnimals

### EU ANIMAL TRANSPORT GUIDES NOW AVAILABLE



Thousands of animals are transported daily within Europe and to third countries for slaughter, breeding and fattening. Transport conditions during these journeys vary a lot. To support the industry to improve animal welfare, the European Commission (DG SANTE) launched a pilot project aimed at producing guides to good practice for live animal transport. The Guides, which are now available, were written by a large consortium of research institutes from 10 countries together with several stakeholder organisations, including input from leading EU agri-food, veterinary, road transport and animal welfare groups.

The Guides are supplemented by 17 practical easy-to-understand Factsheets (available in 8 languages) which provide practical advice on the most critical aspects around transport such as loading and unloading, feeding and watering and transportation in extremely hot or cold temperatures.

For more information on the project and to download materials, please visit <http://animaltransportguides.eu>.

## #Act4LabAnimals

### WALLONIA REVIVES IDEA OF A BELGIAN CENTRE OF ALTERNATIVES TO ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION



Several political groups agreed in the Walloon Parliament to ask the federal government, Flanders and Brussels to relaunch a 2009 project that remained in limbo: the creation of an inter-federal network (centre) to promote, or even develop, methods of scientific research that avoid the use of animal experiments. Members want researchers to turn to methods that do not use animals when they exist. As a result, a motion for a resolution was tabled along these lines, which was unanimously approved at the end of September in the Committee on the Environment.

Animal experiments in the framework of scientific research projects are already subject to the prior authorisation of a local ethics commission, specific to the research establishment.

In this regard, the Minister in charge of animal welfare, Carlo Di Antonio, says he wants to ensure in his draft Code of Animal Welfare, a stronger independence of authority that gives the green light to experimentation.

The EU has already banned the testing of cosmetic products or their ingredients on animals, as well as the marketing of these products.



**READ MORE ABOUT THE EVENT ON p. 16**



**STOP**  
THE TRUCKS!  
TWING #StopTheTrucks

#StopTheTrucks



## JOINING FORCES

# NEW REPORT ON THE USE OF WILD ANIMALS IN EU CIRCUSES: PROBLEMS, RISKS AND SOLUTIONS



Thanks to the collaboration of Eurogroup for Animals and several member organisations, a new report has recently been published on “Wild animals in EU circuses: problems, risks and solutions.[E1]”

The report presents new evidence to support an EU ban on the use of wild animals in circuses on public security grounds. It also provides an overview of the situation across Europe regarding the national legislation and restrictions adopted in each EU Member State. Finally, the report recommends solutions that can be adopted when phasing out wild animals in circuses.

## GROWING CONCERNS

Nowadays, there are growing concerns about the ethics of using wild animals for public entertainment, with increasing calls from the public to put this to an end. In Europe, this is reflected in the national legislation of 20 Member States, who have adopted restrictions on the use of either all, or exclusively wild animals in circuses.

[A statement published in 2015](#) by Eurogroup for Animals and signed by 28 scientists with extensive research records in wildlife biology/ecology/ethology, identified the main welfare implications of the use of wild animals in circuses. Furthermore, a recent report commissioned by the Welsh Government analysed the scientific evidence available in more than a thousand scientific peer-reviewed papers, recognising that circuses cannot guarantee optimal welfare conditions to wild captive animals. The very nature of the circus’ infrastructures, with their constant movement and confinement, is what mainly harm the animals’ well-being.

“ New data on the high number of incidents involving the public and wild animals in circuses in the EU is especially striking if we consider the limited number of wild animals used in this type of public entertainment.”

Besides animal welfare arguments, there is an increasing concern that public entertainment with the use of wild animals does not have any educational value and, on the contrary, may have a negative impact on the public's perception (especially children) of wild animals. This is coherent with two recent declarations that have been signed respectively by over 100 Italian psychologists and the Committee of Psychology of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

## A MATTER OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Eurogroup for Animals demonstrates for the first time, the extent to which the use of wild animals in circuses is not only an issue for animal welfare and a negative public perception of wild animals, but also an important issue of public safety and security.

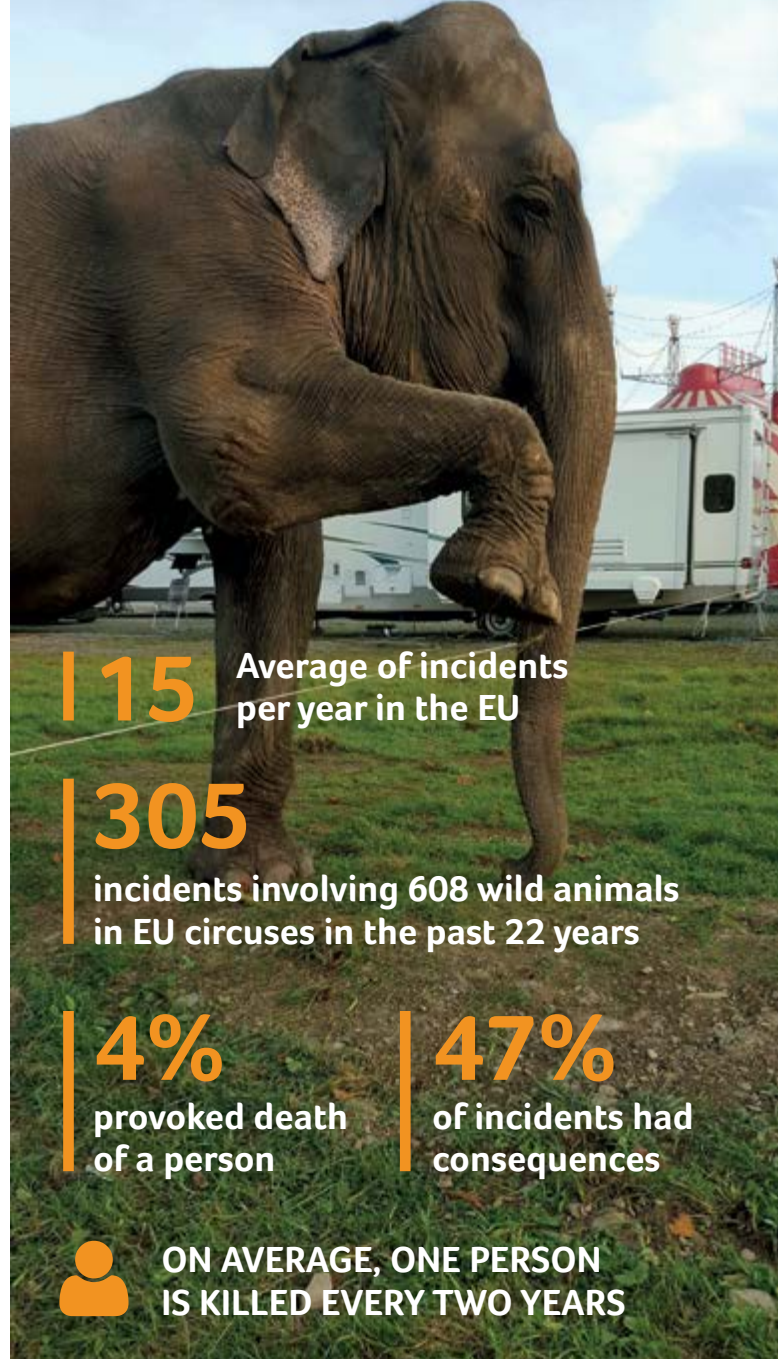
“ With no surprise, the countries with the highest number of incidents are those that did not adopt any kind of restriction on the use of wild animals in circuses: Germany, France and Italy.”

These incidents underline the inadequate temporary infrastructures from which animals are likely to escape, and the low security measures present in circuses. Wild animals are unpredictable and can be very dangerous to people. The temporary nature of traveling circuses and the close proximity of dangerous animals to the public mean that this type of public entertainment can never be entirely safe.

## SOLUTIONS

The [report](#) provides solutions that can be adopted when phasing out wild animals in circuses. With the aim of facilitating this process, it presents a list of rescue centres and sanctuaries, mainly based in Europe, that have been identified by Eurogroup for Animals' member organisations as being particularly appropriate to rescue dismissed circus animals.

The report's findings highlight the necessity and urgency to phase out the use of wild animals in circuses in the EU. The steps already taken by 20 EU Member are a move in the right direction, but it is not enough. Only 11 EU Member States have adopted a total ban on the use of wild animals. In addition, circuses belonging to countries or municipalities



that have adopted restrictions can simply move to places where wild animals are still allowed to perform. This unfortunately means that the 20 EU Member States with legal restrictions are still obliged to accept circuses using banned animals to move through their territory.

“ Consequently, only a coordinated and full ban in all EU Member States can guarantee a coherent and effective solution to the physical and emotional suffering of wild animals in circuses and to the related public security risks.”

Given the cross-border nature of the issue and the related risks for the safety of both people and animals, Eurogroup for Animals believes that an EU ban is also legitimate and perfectly justified. In the coming months, we will continue to work with our member organisations to reach this goal. There is no space for such outdated and cruel public entertainment in a society that truly cares about the welfare of the animals.

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE



# FOLLOW OUR WORK FOR ANIMAL WELFARE



## COMMISSION PROMISES TO PUT LIVE ANIMAL TRANSPORT HIGH ON THE AGENDA

Francesca Porta, Programme Officer, Farm Animals

On 21<sup>st</sup> September Eurogroup for Animals and its member organisations officially handed over 1 million signatures from the [#StopTheTrucks](#) campaign to the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Vytenis Andriukaitis. Thanks to the overwhelming support from EU citizens, the European Commissioner has put animal transport high on the EU agenda.

Eurogroup for Animals welcomes the setup of a sub-group dedicated to live transport on the EU Animal Welfare Platform, which was announced during the meeting with the Commissioner of the official handover of signatures. This sub-group should focus on the need to revise the current system and rules governing long distance live animal transport, and put in place a long term strategy to replace this inhumane trade.

The recognition of the European Commission of the need to significantly improve animal welfare in transit within and outside the EU shows there is light at the end of the tunnel. As the situation is becoming more and more urgent as the number of animals involved in long distance transport is dramatically increasing especially to third countries, we welcome the Commission's openness for not only working on short term solutions but also a long term strategy. Now is the time for us to work together to make this happen.

Flemish Minister for Animal Welfare, Ben Weyts who officially handed over the signatures from the [#StopTheTrucks](#) campaign to Commissioner Andriukaitis said, *"citizens all over Europe are very concerned about the lack of transport journey time limits. Thanks to the campaign #StopTheTrucks, animal welfare is back on the EU agenda. Scientific evidence proves that the length of the journeys has a negative impact on the health and welfare of animals."* Minister Weyts said that this meeting was a step forward in the right direction: *"Another way of trading is possible and we have raised the need for a strategy to replace long distance live transport with a trade of meat and carcasses only or another possibility would be slaughtering closer to home, which is not only good for animal welfare, but also for food safety."*

At Member State level, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands, and Sweden have joined the Ministerial Animal Welfare Alliance' call on the European Commission to significantly shorten journey times for live animals and improve transport conditions. Eurogroup for Animals looks forward to working closely with the Commission to make [#StopTheTrucks](#) a reality.



## SUCCESS! MEMBER STATES ACT TO PROTECT EUROPE'S PETS

Joe Moran, Political Adviser

Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Sweden have jointly submitted a declaration to the European Commission, calling for action to stop the illegal trade in pet animals across the EU – particularly with regard to the smuggling of dogs. The declaration, which comes after substantial input and collaboration with Eurogroup for Animals, mirrors the Resolution of the European Parliament achieved last year through our [Protect Our Pets campaign](#).

The numbers of dogs and cats being smuggled has grown exponentially over the past decade. This growth has been fueled by a consumer demand for certain breeds, an increase in online classified advertisements, and a pet passport system which currently does not work. Nearly all the animals come from eastern EU Member States, with dogs being collected from puppy farms, and cats from a network of backstreet breeders. All are separated too early from their mothers, transported huge distances in cramped and unsanitary conditions, and then sold to unsuspecting owners. A high number of these animals end up suffering from severe transmissible diseases, and too often die prematurely as a result. Those that do survive are often poorly socialised, and as a result, do not make for cuddly companions. This in turn results in abandonment, or it leads to attacks on humans or other animals of the kind we too often hear about in the news.

The EU Member States and Eurogroup for Animals, all of whom sit together on the new EU Platform for Animal Welfare, now expect a 'sub-group' on the Platform to be formed.. This would look at the ways in which Member States can coordinate their identification and registration systems.

It will not take a huge effort to make the pet passport scheme fit for purpose. Member States simply need a common threshold for the requirements that are placed on owners to register their pet, a similar threshold in terms of the data that is held in existing systems, and a mechanism by which this data can be transferred from one system to another. This would provide the necessary cross-border tractability that is currently lacking, and would remove the loophole that allows traders to use overnight.

For Eurogroup for Animals, this is a huge success, and one which should mark the beginning of the end of the illegal pet trade in Europe. We commend the work of the six Member States in their efforts to finally address this terrible, inhumane trade.



## HORSE BLOOD FARMS MUST BE STOPPED

Giulia Tarsitano, Programme Officer, Companion Animals

In 2015, shocking evidence gathered by Eurogroup for Animals member organisation Tierschutzbund Zürich|Animal Welfare Foundation (TSB|AWF) and their partners in Uruguay revealed the horrific practice of collecting blood serum from horses. They discovered that Uruguay and Argentina are currently the main producers of PMSG (Pregnant Mare Serum Gonadotropin), a hormone extracted from the mares' blood during early pregnancy. PMSG is then used in veterinary drugs designated to farm animals, mainly pigs, in order to induce and synchronise reproduction.

The investigations of TSB|AWF uncovered a terrible scenario: the existence of five 'blood farms', operating to meet European farm animal breeders' demand, where animal abuse and maltreatments are involved at every stage of the production process. A cruel business worth millions of dollars, causing the suffering of thousands of horses each year.

The frequency of the blood collection, as well as the quantity of blood extracted are far beyond any reasonable limit, causing mares to suffer from anaemia and deficiency diseases. Systematic abortion of foals are part of these mares' life for many years. If they do not die due to the repeated blood extractions, the mares are taken out of the process when they become infertile and sent to EU approved slaughterhouses. Their meat is sold for human consumption in the EU and Swiss markets.

Based on recent follow-up investigations, Eurogroup for Animals has decided to take action with a new campaign – led by TSB|AWF together with several other members – [to expose the continuation of this bloody trade](#). If the welfare standards for farm animals set by EU law were to apply in the PMSG producing countries, this horrific situation would be prohibited. Furthermore, even the EU has no specific legal requirements for the production of PMSG. In Germany however, blood collection from pregnant mares for veterinary use is prohibited. Eurogroup therefore aims to influence international trade negotiations and eventually obtain an EU ban on the import of this product.

A concentrated action is vital to stop Europe's demand for PMSG and put an end to these torturing practices. So far the investigation results have been presented to the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, while the pharmaceutical company MSD Animal Health (Merck) stopped buying PMSG from South American blood farms. Eurogroup for Animals is working towards increasing the political awareness at Institutional level so that the import of PMSG into the EU will finally be stopped.



## NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO BETTER PROTECT AND IMPROVE ANIMAL WELFARE IN EU TRADE POLICY

Stephanie Ghislain, Trade & Animal Welfare Project Leader

The EU is a global leader in the field of animal welfare, which is something to praise. Yet, there is still a long way to go, especially in terms of trade, as so far trade liberalisation has had a negative impact on animal welfare. Opening our market leads to increasing imports of cheap products with lower animal welfare standards and causes a chilling effect on new legislation in Europe. As a response, Eurogroup for Animals' Trade & Animal Welfare project has drafted model provisions aimed at better embedding and enforcing animal welfare in future EU Free Trade Agreements (FTAs).

The key principles that the provisions defend are the following: very strong cooperation mechanisms to genuinely improve the situation on the ground; the protection of the right to regulate to avoid any slowdown of new legislation; and conditional liberalisation based on equivalence of standards, to give better access only to products respecting standards that are equivalent to ours. The provisions also include wording on trade and sustainable development, calling for the EU to recognise the strong connection between animal welfare and sustainable development.

During a successful event on 18 October 2017 in the European Parliament, co-organised by Eurogroup for Animals, the European Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmström actively supported the crucial need to better protect animals in EU trade policy. Karoline Graswander-Hainz MEP also underlined how crucial Eurogroup for Animals' efforts are in this debate.

Eurogroup for Animals will continue its advocacy efforts on this topic.



## GET TO KNOW US

# EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS IN A NUTSHELL – 2017

58 MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

12 BOARD MEMBERS

17 TEAM MEMBERS



1 FLAGSHIP CAMPAIGN PER YEAR

6 WORKING GROUPS

3 PROJECT GROUPS

4 MEMBER GROUPS

Input for most of the animal welfare related reports and initiatives of the European Parliament this term

Secretariat of the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals, with about 10 Intergroup meetings

7 seats in the Animal Welfare Platform

10 meetings with the Commissioner

Member of 6 Civil Society Groups (DG Agri)

Member of Expert Group (DG Sante)

Member of Advisory Council (DG Mare)

Member of the Stakeholder Advisory Group in the EC (DG Sante)

Working hand in hand with 5 Member States

**EUROGROUP  
FOR ANIMALS**

## OUR MEMBERS

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### EMBRACING THE DIVERSITY AND GROWTH OF THE ANIMAL ADVOCACY LANDSCAPE

Following the past years' evolution, animal advocacy actors are growing in numbers, reflecting the increasing interest of citizens for animal welfare, together with the need to act more, and now.

Eurogroup for Animals' membership reflects this growing trend. Since 2016, we have had the honour to welcome 10 new member organisations.

These developments enable us to strengthen our voice, either by reinforcing national representation especially in key EU Member States or by integrating new expertise on specific issues, that is needed to represent all animals.

**Luonto Liitto (The Wolf Action Group) (Finland)**  
<http://www.luontoliitto.fi/susiryhma/in-english>

**Catholic Concern for Animals (UK)**  
<https://catholic-animals.com/>

**Badger Trust (UK)**  
[www.badger.org.uk](http://www.badger.org.uk)

**Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ISPICA) (Ireland)**  
[www.ispca.ie](http://www.ispca.ie)

**One Voice (France):**  
<https://one-voice.fr/>

**La Fondation Droit Animal, Ethique et Sciences (LFDA) (France)**  
<http://www.fondation-droit-animal.org/>

**FAADA (Spain)**  
<http://faada.org/>

**Ippothesis (Greece)**  
<http://ippothesis.gr>

**Loomus (Estonia)**  
<http://loomus.ee/>

**Animals International (Australia)**  
[www.animalsinternational.org](http://www.animalsinternational.org)

**Animals**  
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## 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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