EUROGROUP MAGAZINE



THE IMPORTANCE OF ANIMAL WELFARE IN EUTRADE POLICY



HERMAN KOETER, CHAIR OF THE NETHERLANDS NCad



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EDITORIAL

ANIMAL PROTECTION KNOWS NO BORDERS

Earlier this year I had the chance to showcase Eurogroup for Animals' work at the Minding Animals conference in Mexico City. This very inspiring triennial conference brings together animal scholars and advocates from around the world to share knowledge, exchange best practices and strategize on how to jointly create an impact for animals.

Every day we notice how the well-being of Europe's animals is increasingly influenced by global dynamics. My mission at Minding Animals was therefore to strengthen our international network and explore new partnerships to influence those global dynamics.

As you will read in this magazine, many of our issues have an international dimension. The EU is pursuing an aggressive trade agenda and is currently negotiating at least 15 trade deals with countries such as Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and Australia. This trend, which poses both threats and opportunities for the

well-being of animals prompted us a while ago to start a dedicated project on trade and animal welfare.

With trade deals opening our markets to animals and animal-based products, produced under much lower welfare conditions, we have to make sure that we safeguard our existing and future animal welfare standards. At the same time, these trade relations offer huge opportunities for the EU to drive higher welfare around the world.

In the past month the European Parliament's Environment and Food Safety Committee adopted a resolution calling for a worldwide ban on the testing of animals for cosmetic purposes. This is just one example of how the EU can serve as a springboard to drive positive change for animals globally.

With factory farming and its terrible impact for animals spreading at a rapid pace, we cannot afford to work in isolation on higher welfare standards in the EU. We often hear that we cannot ban, for example, enriched cages for laying hens

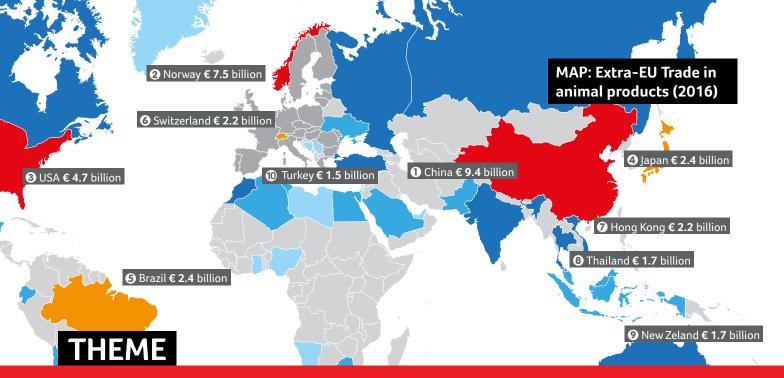
or increase standards for broiler chickens in the EU out of fear that those industries will set up their businesses outside the EU where standards are lower. This is why we need counterparts all over the world to jointly advocate and campaign against these trends.

The EU takes pride in presenting itself as global animal welfare leader. Now we have to make sure that it lives up to this reputation by better protecting animals in the EU and driving high welfare standards globally.



Reineke Hameleers Director, Eurogroup for Animals

EUROGROUP **EANIMALS**



THE IMPORTANCE OF ANIMAL **WELFARE IN EU TRADE POLICY**



Stephanie Ghislain Project Leader, Trade and Animal Welfare

Each year, the EU trades millions of animals with the rest of the world, dead or alive, without adequate welfare protection. In 2017, one year after the liberalisation of trade between Brussels and Kiev, Ukrainian imports of poultry meat ranked second in the EU, with around 61 thousand tons. In 2013, before any trade agreement, they amounted to only 210 tons.

Ukraine exemplifies both the risks and opportunities that trade liberalisation can bring for animals.

Our Trade and Animal Welfare Project Leader, Stephanie Ghislain explores those risks and opportunities brought by EU trade policy and how working on this policy field can help raise welfare standards globally.

A GROWING GLOBAL TRADE

In the past decade the amount of animals and animalbased products imported and exported by the EU has almost doubled. This equates to a growing proportion of what is consumed in Europe originating in third countries. Yet, most animal welfare standards adopted by the EU do not apply directly to imports and trade agreements do not require compliance with those standards. This is a worrying trend.

Why? As the EU is increasingly opening its market to foreign animal and animal-based products by reducing tariffs at the border, these products are getting cheaper. To meet the increasing European demand flowing from lower prices, more animals are thus being exploited abroad, under lower standards of welfare.

The situation also makes European producers, who have to respect higher animal welfare standards, less competitive, putting pressure on authorities in Europe to not further improve animal welfare standards or not to establish new ones. In a worst-case scenario, it could even lead to calls for the elimination of those standards altogether. Unless the EU takes the lead and gives adequate attention to animals in its trade policy, the situation will only become more dire.

THE EU AS A LEADER - AN **OPPORTUNITY FOR ANIMAL WELFARE**

The EU is an aggressive actor on the trade scene, defending a positive vision of free trade and putting significant resources into negotiating bilateral free trade agreements (FTA) with key partners. The EU can leverage a market of 500 million consumers to convince trade partners to make concessions in various fields it considers strategically important.

It can therefore have a substantial influence in raising the bar on animal welfare standards outside the EU. The Ukrainian case reflects this approach: the EU granted unprecedented access to its market for Ukrainian animal-based products but the Ukraine had to commit it would bring its animal welfare laws at the level of European standards.

With the latest Eurobarometer survey on animal welfare showing that more than 90 percent of European consumers want imported products to respect animal welfare standards similar to those applicable in the EU, European leaders stands in good stead to voice the concerns of citizens and project high animal welfare standards globally".

MAKING A DIFFERENCE – A CIVIL SOCIETY PERSPECTIVE

Through its trade and animal welfare project, Eurogroup for Animals aims not only to ensure that EU trade relations do not present a threat to maintaining and improving EU animal welfare standards, but also that it is used to promote the adoption of higher animal welfare standards by third partners.

This can be achieved both by introducing relevant economic incentives - through conditioning preferential market access to the respect of higher animal welfare standards - and by setting up cooperation mechanisms to help the trade partner progress.

ANIMAL PROTECTION'S PLACE IN TRADE

The provisions included by the EU in trade agreements so far have not delivered sufficient results.

Most of the time, the language used is soft and vague, and even when the agreement included a commitment to align standards - as it was the case for Ukraine - this has not materialised yet, while Ukrainian products already fully access our markets.

Conditional liberalisation for more welfare

In response to these shortcomings, Eurogroup for Animals has developed a set of model provisions to better address animal protection in EU trade agreements, which was welcomed by European Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmström.

[Eurogroup for Animals] model provisions are a very interesting proposal to [better address animal welfare in EU trade policy]"

Malmström, European Commissioner for Trade

Our model provisions are based on three key principles:

• First, the EU's has to preserve its right to regulate in the field of animal welfare, not only in words but also in

- practice. Fear of competitivity loss should not constrain a less ambitious animal welfare agenda.
- Second, the EU must establish strong cooperation mechanisms with third partners to foster real progress on the grounds.
- Finally, the EU should condition the access to its market to the respect of equivalent level of animal welfare standards.

This is a concept we call 'conditional liberalisation' and it should prevent the surge in lower standards imports. Those provisions should be included in future trade agreements as a standalone chapter that would recognise the deep connection between animal welfare and conservation. Negotiations with countries that share strong animal welfare standards with the EU, such as New Zealand and the UK, will bring the best opportunities to push for such a standalone chapter.

Stronger monitoring by linking with sustainable development

Trade agreements negotiated by the EU also contain a chapter on 'trade and sustainable development', including a monitoring mechanism that involves civil society organisations. Eurogroup for Animals is therefore pushing for better recognition of the link between animal protection and sustainable development to activate this mechanism for welfare too.

Intensive farming practices are detrimental to both animal welfare and conservation, and to the environment. They generally lead to more carbon emissions and deforestation, affecting specific habitats and wildlife.

The EU should recognise that strong connection and only grant access to its market if equivalent animal welfare standards are respected. This would support a trade stimulating only less intensive livestock farming in trade partners' territories. The EU must also better take this dimension into account and detail how cooperation with the partner can lead to reduced emissions and deforestation by improving conditions for animals.

LOOKING AHEAD

Every day, from South America and Canada to Indonesia and Japan, countries are negotiating trade deals. The EU, supported by its caring citizens, needs to use its trade policy and the important leverage that its market represents to promote EU animal welfare standards globally and improve the fate of millions of animals. EU trade policy can be a threat but it can also be an opportunity for animal welfare. It is vital that the latter prevails.



MEET HERMAN KOETER,

CHAIR OF THE NETHERLANDS NATIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS USED FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES (NCAD)

Could you tell us a bit about yourself and the work you do?

Telling about myself is not my favourite thing. In short, I worked as a toxicologist at TNO for 25 years before I moved to Paris to manage, as the Principle Administrator at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the harmonisation of risk assessment of chemicals throughout all Member Countries.

A specific achievement was the establishment of the International Council on Animal Protection in OECD Countries (ICAPO). After 13 years at OECD I moved to Parma, Italy to take up the position of Scientific Director of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). After my retirement, I moved back to Brussels and established Orange House Partnership, a charity organisation of about 160 experts from 32 countries throughout the globe giving free of charge training in risk management of food ingredients and chemicals to public sector institutions in developing countries. In addition, in 2014 I accepted the position of Chairman of the NCad.

The ground-breaking advisory report by the Netherlands National Committee for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes (NCad) entitled "Transition to non-animal research" was probably the first report to provide a thorough analysis of the opportunities to phase out the use of animals in research, education and testing. The report puts forward, not only clear transition objectives, but also a transition strategy.

Could you tell us what first steps have been taken to implement the NCad strategy for a transition to non-animal research, and what could we expect in the near future?

The first step was the organisation of an informative symposium jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture for Dutch life science experts to spread the word that the government supported the NCad opinion and that we need the input of the scientific community. This was followed up by the establishment of a Core Group of institutions willing to join the Programme. These include the RIVM (National Health Institute) the KNAW (Royal Dutch Academy of Science), other governmental bodies and societal organisations such as the Joint Health Funds and the animal welfare society 'Proefdiervrij'.

Furthermore, the RIVM developed a roadmap for the outphasing of regulatory animal testing and the NCad designed a framework to be used to develop 10-year transition targets tailored for fundamental research domains. The KNAW and the University of Utrecht are working on transition targets for central nervous system research and education curricula in the veterinary faculty, respectively.

In the NCad report you have taken a complex multi-level perspective on how transitions take place, including a variety of actors and stages. What are, for you, the major challenges in managing a transition to non-animal research?

At this early phase, the Core Group is still building the house i.e. getting more institutions involved and drafting a concise umbrella program plan for the next 10 years involving players at all three levels.

Our major challenge is getting international support, particularly from the European Commission. We are considering options and strategies for cooperation with countries that have shown interest in participation, including the USA, Canada, Italy, and Belgium.

What motivated the Netherlands to set up the goal of being the world leader in innovations without laboratory animals by 2025?

If you really want to make a difference, you must stick your neck out by making bold statements about what could be achieved. But in doing so you should truly believe in what you say and have realistic suggestions how to get there.

World leadership is not my goal but a front runner position is unavoidable if you want to achieve the out-phasing of all animal testing for regulatory safety testing of chemical substances by 2025.

We were lucky to have a Minister of Agriculture who strongly supported this goal and requested the NCad to develop a realistic roadmap towards that goal in 2025.

As the report acknowledges, some of the objectives of the Netherlands cannot be achieved with national efforts alone. One example of this is the ambition to phase out the use of animals in regulatory safety testing by 2025. What involvement do we need from other member states and from the EU to achieve this goal?

As said, the support of many EU member states is a 'must' and while the RIVM has started the scientific and technical work step by step, informative and policy meetings are taking place and scheduled at various levels in the EU. Constructive lobbying and support of the animal welfare community would be greatly appreciated!



Andreas Erler, Senior Political Adviser



Animal Welfare Intergroup convenes new working group on cage-free farming

Could you imagine living in a cage that does not allow you to stretch or move your body? Every year this is the reality for over 700 million farm animals, including hens, quail, rabbits, sows and ducks housed in cages on farms in the EU. Most of them spend their life in confinement despite the fact that the cages severely limit their ability to meet their basic behavioural, physical and psychological needs.

Over the last years, the cage-free movement has been gaining ground as consumers expect higher welfare standards when they buy animal products. Major retailers have already started supporting cage-free farming schemes.

The adoption of the 2016 European Parliament own initiative report on minimum standards for the protection of farmed rabbits (2016/2077/(INI)) is the latest political success in a series of recent developments. It highlights growing concerns from citizens and the political will to address the situation.

Last October (2017) the European Parliament Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals decided to set up a new working group on cage-free farming, headed by Stefan Eck MEP (GUE/NGL, DE) and Eleonora Evi MEP (EFD, IT). The working group aims to raise awareness about the serious welfare issues resulting from cages in animal farming, share intelligence and develop political strategies to overcome these challenges. This group of likeminded MEP's will prepare the Intergroup's actions calling on the European Commission and Member States to ban cages in EU farming.

The main objective will be however to support and promote the upcoming European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) (CWIF) "End the Cage Age" led by Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) and supported by Eurogroup for Animals. The ECI aims to gather support from EU citizens taking a stand against cruel housing systems for farm animals.

Animal advocacy organisations are consistently embracing the call for an end to the use of cages in animal farming and will continue to actively campaign on this issue in support of the ECI.

ANIMAL NEWS

IN EUROPE

#Act4AnimalsEU

EUROPEAN COMMISSION APPOINTS FIRST EU ANIMAL WELFARE REFERENCE CENTRE

After the establishment of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare last year, the creation of first EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare marks another milestone in developing high EU animal welfare standards.

A consortium formed by the Wageningen Livestock Research (the Netherlands), the Friedrich Loeffler Institute (Germany) and the Department of Animal Science at Aarhus University (Denmark) has been designated as the first EU Reference Centre. Its designation will be reviewed every five years. This first centre will focus on pig welfare, as improving the enforcement of the legislation of pigs is one of the European Commission's priorities in the area of animal welfare.

It will provide technical support and coordinated assistance to the Member States in carrying out official controls in the field of animal welfare, as well as contribute to the dissemination of good practices. Besides providing scientific and technical expertise, the center will also carry out studies and develop methods for assessing and improving the welfare level of animals.

#Act4LabAnimals

WILL THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY SOON BE 'CRUELTY FREE'?



BMW, Volkswagen and Daimler have vowed to end animal testing. The promise comes after revelations that German carmakers commissioned or supported studies in 2014 exposing monkeys and humans to exhaust fumes and nitrogen dioxide from diesel cars. Monkeys were not only forced to breath these diluted exhaust fumes, but also subject to cruel punctures of lung tissue samples. It is unclear what happened to these animals afterwards.

The studies conducted by the European Research Group on Environment and Health in the Transport Sector (EUGT) were never published and the group dissolved last year when controversy over the work emerged. The three carmakers distanced themselves from the research and accused the researchers of having violated ethics rules without their knowledge.

#Act4Pets

BRITISH MPS LAUNCH GROUP DEDICATED TO CAT WELFARE

Cats are one of Britain's most popular pets, and their welfare is of huge importance to millions of owners. Yet, despite their popularity, cats all too often suffer from a lack of specific laws to protect them. But there is good news....

British MPs and leading animal welfare charities Cats Protection and Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, have joined forces to campaign for cat welfare. The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on cats launched recently will advocate for law changes to improve protection for cats and their owners.

This new group focuses on feline welfare and how to tackle key issues, such as toxins contained in antifreeze or laws on airguns. They will also highlight the social benefits of owning a cat such as addressing loneliness.

#Act4Wildlife

LACOSTE SWAPS ITS ICONIC CROCODILE LOGO FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Lacoste crocodile logo leaves its spot this season to 10 endangered species as part of a three year collaboration between the brand and the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Save Our Species program.

The limited-edition of 1,775 white cotton polo shirts showcases a green design of rare specimens such as the Kakapo Parrot, the California Condor, or the Javan Rhino. The number of shirts available for each animal matches the number of remaining specimens in the wild. The rarest one is the Vaquita, also called Gulf of California porpoise, a sea mammal weighing 48 kilos, of which there are only 30 left.



© GAIA

#Act4FarmAnimals

EGG BRAND GUARANTEES 'HIGHEST LEVELS' OF ANIMAL WELFARE

Earlier this year member organisation ANDA (Asociación Nacional para la Defensa de los Animales) and AVIALTER (Asociación Profesional de la Avicultura Alternativa) presented the ANDA egg brand. This promises to guarantee the highest levels of animal welfare, as well as environmental sustainability, while supporting small and medium-scale farmers.

It is the first time in Spain that an animal protection organisation endorses with its logo a product of animal origin. The ANDA brand will only include eggs from free-range and organic farms (systems labeled 1 and 0) where hens are offered, among other things, specially designed outdoor runs with shrubs and trees that encourage the birds to roam and explore. Multi-tier systems and mutilations are not allowed.

#Act4FarmAnimals

UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION REVEALS LIVING HELL OF BROILER CHICKENS IN BELGIUM

In March, GAIA shed light on the misery of broiler chickens in six Flemish broiler sheds. The images are painful to see - animals in agony from lameness and deformities, with abdominal swelling and burns on their feet and skin. The images clearly show that minimum European legal standards are not respected as these animals are massively exploited in the factory farming industry.

With this investigation, GAIA documented the industrial living conditions of chickens from the moment of their arrival in the broiler sheds until just before their trip to the slaughterhouse. Suffering worsens as the days go on. The birds can hardly move, they grow so fast their legs cannot support their weight. The sheds are overcrowded. Many

chickens are unable to walk and they spend most of their time lying down, in their own droppings.

After only six weeks, the chickens are sent to the slaughterhouse, cut up, and sold cheaply on supermarket shelves. At this age, they are still babies in an over-developed body. Supermarket policies are largely responsible for this situation. By offering consumers chicken meat at such low prices, they are supporting a large-scale system profiting from animal suffering. GAIA is calling on supermarket chains to assume their responsibility and also demands the use of slower-growing breeds of chicken, no more overcrowding (without exception), dry and clean litter, and access to covered outdoor runs.









Large carnivores are charismatic species. Wolves, brown bears, lynxes and wolverines are part of the European natural environment, but in highly populated continents like Europe, their conservation requires integration with human activities.

FROM PAST TO PRESENT

Traditionally, Europeans coexisted with large carnivores and were used to apply measures to protect domestic animals. But during the last century persecution led to a dramatic decline or absence of large carnivores in Europe.

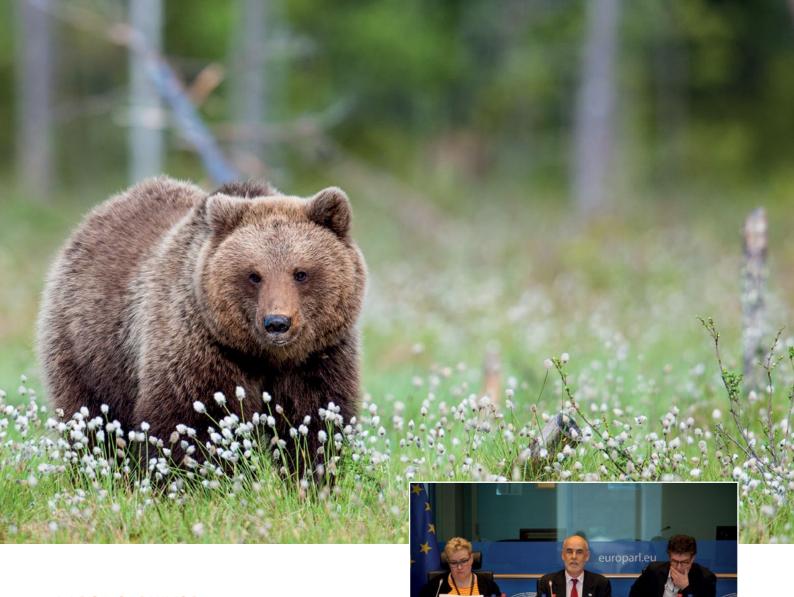
Recent protection provided by EU law has allowed for a slow recovery of the populations in several Member States, but with the sad reality that people have little or no recollection of how to live alongside these animals. Traditional coexistence methods have been forgotten and there has been a fundamental change in farming and husbandry systems. A lack of natural prey, habitat loss and unprotected livestock contribute to attacks from large carnivores on domestic animals, creating growing conflicts and resentment from humans.

THE RIGHT TIME TO ACT

With recovering populations of large carnivores in Europe, the topic of how to achieve coexistence is a hot one. Large carnivores are protected species according to the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC), but a rising tide of hostility is leading some politicians to call for drastic measures, such as killing.

A recent European Parliament's Committee of Petitions report entitled 'Large Carnivore Management Plans of Protection: Best Practices in EU Member States' comes at a timely moment. Published in response to a growing number of petitions expressing concern on the management of conflicts with large carnivores, the report presents the regulatory measures and effective techniques that have been developed and tested to minimise wildlife conflicts and help humans to successfully coexist with large carnivores in the long term.

The scientific literature indicates that managing livestock to prevent large carnivores' attacks and improving public awareness are the most rational, effective, fair and less controversial ways to decrease and prevent conflicts.



LARGE CARNIVORE MANAGEMENT IN THE EU

Since the establishment of the EU funding programme for the Environment (LIFE) in 1992, more than 40 projects on coexistence with large carnivores have been carried out with EU co-funding. These projects have played a valuable role in testing and implementing ways of managing and minimising conflicts between large carnivores and humans.

The installation of electric fences or fladry to protect herds from predator attacks, the use of livestock guarding dogs, public awareness, the deployment of intervention units and experts on predators are some of the solutions that have been implemented and demonstrated to have a high success rate in minimising predator attacks on herds.

JOINING FORCES

Following the publication of the European Parliament report, Eurogroup for Animals recently joined forces to organise an event in Brussels on the subject. Hosted by Intergroup President Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP (EPP), with MEPs Anja Hazekamp (GUE/NGL) and Pascal Durand (Greens/

Achieving coexistence with Large Carnivores Event, 7 March 2018, Brussels

EFA), the well-attended event explored possible solutions for achieving coexistence with large carnivores.

The event explored obstacles and challenges EU citizens — whether farmers, breeders, locals or hunters — face, which may prevent them from successfully coexisting with bears, wolves and other large carnivores. It showed that the path to follow is one which develops a culture of coexistence in harmony with people.

The extensive involvement of stakeholders has been crucial in reducing hostility and increasing acceptance of the presence of large carnivores in Europe.

Many thanks to Luonto-Liitto susiryhmä for their collaboration for the European Parliament event.

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CHICKEN WELFARE. WHY WE MUST ACT TODAY

Elena Nalon, Programme Leader, Farm Animals

Chickens are sentient beings, each with their own personality. Just like other animals, they experience fear, pain and stress. We farm them by the billions (7 billion meat chickens and 360 million laying hens in the EU alone), and yet all too often chickens are kept in conditions that do not enable them to lead even a decent life, in line with their basic ethological requirements.

Thanks to the generosity of the Open Philanthropy Project, Eurogroup for Animals will be able in 2018–19 to start a dedicated project to improve chicken welfare in the EU. The project will tackle the welfare of laying hens and broiler chickens and will build the foundations to call for a revision of existing legislation.

Precise requirements that will substantially improve the lives of broiler chickens will have to be introduced and incorporated into future legislation, including: a significant reduction in the maximum allowed stocking density (30kg/m2 or less); the adoption of specific slower-growing broiler breeds with demonstrably higher welfare outcomes; provision of perches and environmental enrichments; controlled atmospheric gas stunning with inert gas or multiphase systems (or effective electrical stunning without live inversion). Additionally, cages for laying hens will have to be phased out across the EU with a transition towards best practices for cage-free farming, so that the sector becomes resilient for the future.

Improving chicken welfare, especially if we consider the broiler industry, is essential to protect public health. Using more robust chicken breeds, reducing stocking density, adapting management are all factors that contribute to limit the need for mass antibiotic treatments. This is a very important aspect if we consider that antimicrobial resistance is emerging as one of the biggest threats to global public health in the coming years.

Now is the time to act. Drawing on the results of national campaigns, and through coordinated EU-wide advocacy work, Eurogroup for Animals and its member organisations will make sure that chicken welfare ranks high on the EU's agenda. Together we will raise awareness of the current suffering of billions of chickens in Europe and beyond. We will propose the way forward, with a view to addressing current scientific evidence, societal concerns, consumers' expectations, and to harmonise existing market forces. We will work to build a Europe (and beyond) where chickens have the respect and attention they deserve.



PROTECTING EUROPE'S COMPANIONS

Giulia Tarsitano, Programme Officer, Companion Animals

Companion animals have a place of special importance in our lives, often being seen as our closest friend and extended members of the family.

In Europe, the population of companion animals is growing with currently around 184 million cats and dogs, and 7 million equids. Around 80 million European households have welcomed a pet into their home (2016 data). Our relationship with these animals provides a precious opportunity to understand more about the diverse needs and functioning of the animal world. However, with companionship, also comes the question of protection and the welfare of these animals.

Europe sees a large scale illegal trade in dogs, and a growing trade in cats. Different or sometimes lacking rules for companion animals and equine breeders and trade dealers put animal health and welfare and consumer protection at risk. A recent Eurobarometer showed 74 percent of European citizens believe companion animals deserve better protection. And yet, many European countries lack specific laws to ensure companion animals are not neglected or mistreated. Existing EU laws are not equally stringent and levels of responsible ownership and care vary widely across Member States.

On the backdrop of a 2015/16 Eurogroup for Animals campaign *Protect our Pets*, two European Parliament resolutions (one on the identification and registration of pets and the other on responsible ownership of equines), a ground-breaking report on equine welfare (Removing the blinkers), and the recent establishment of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare, Eurogroup for Animals will soon launch a Europe-wide campaign.

2018 is an opportunity to work closely with our member organisations to mobilise Europeans behind the caring for companion animals and equines. Responsible ownership is crucial and the understanding of their needs by European citizens is vital to ensure their well-being.

Simultaneously, we will work through the EU Platform for Animal Welfare to build consensus for cooperative measures and the development of European species specific guidelines for the protection of pets and equines. These, although not binding, would be fundamental tools for having a common understanding across Europe on the true value of our companion animals and pave the way towards future EU laws.

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MAKING SURE EU ANIMALS DON'T PAY THE PRICE FOR BREXIT

Joe Moran, Political Adviser

Too often the narrative around Brexit has only looked at the impact of the UK's withdrawal, including on animal welfare, within Great Britain and Northern Ireland. However, British secession will undoubtedly present real animal welfare challenges within the EU too.

Agricultural sectors in certain Member States are heavily reliant on easy access to the UK market. As trade could contract by as much as 62 percent, some agricultural exports face 'complete collapse', notably in dairy from cattle, goats for example, and red meat, from cattle. Ireland and France would be hardest hit in these areas, whilst white meat from pigs and chicken meat production would be most affected in the Netherlands. The resulting impact would disproportionately hit smaller pasture-based farms, in favour of larger, industrial outfits.

Even with a reduction in agricultural trade, the number of animals that are likely to be moved between the two will still be higher than those currently being exported to Turkey. Here, delays of six hours are commonplace. Some reduction in checks could happen through specific veterinary agreements, but with the British Government determined to leave both the single market and the customs union, border checks of some kind will be necessary.

For the past 45 years, the UK has been a beacon for animal welfare within the Union's institutions, and has championed higher standards. How an absence of British voices in the chambers of the European Parliament and Council will affect our cause is too soon to tell. However, the EU27 are already grappling with the 10.2 billion EUR shortfall that Britain's departure will leave in CAP funding. Eurogroup for Animals is working to ensure that animal welfare does not lose out.

Brexit leaves the EU with only questions and challenges in the realm of animal welfare. Eurogroup for Animals is working, hand-in-hand with its Brexit & Animals Taskforce within the UK, to ensure that animal welfare does not pay the price.



FISH SLAUGHTER: HOLDING THE COMMISSION TO ACCOUNT

Doug Waley, Fish Welfare Programme Leader

Farmed fish live their entire lives in captivity, reliant on external control of water quality, feed and health treatments, with regular handling and little consideration to slaughter processes.

Slaughter standards are being failed across Europe. Most starkly, the whole sea bass and sea bream sectors are using inhumane slaughter practices, while a study from the Commission (November 2017) showed that private actors are driving effective stunning of these species outside of Europe.

In Europe, the EU Slaughter Regulation (2009) protects fish from pain and suffering. It states that fish specific standards should be established and contains a legal obligation to investigate and report on the information necessary to establish these standards. A Commission report into implementation of the EU Transport Regulation (2005) also identified the need for fish specific standards, and mandated a similar investigation.

In this recent opportunity for the EU to follow through on existing legal commitments to protect the welfare of farmed fish, the European Commission has failed to deliver. It has ignored the EU's existing commitments and disregarded the findings of its own studies. The Commission's report published last November on the welfare aspects of transport and slaughter in European aquaculture clearly demonstrated that without making EU regulations, international standards will continue to be failed across Member States.

Eurogroup for Animals is working hard to build pressure in the European Institutions to protect the welfare of farmed fish. Its dedicated program on fish welfare calls on the EU to prioritise fish welfare in the EU Platform on Animal Welfare. Facilitating communication among policy makers is essential if there is to be a coherent and timely response from the European Parliament and Council, and from the European Commission's stakeholder platforms on the topic of slaughter.

The EU has already passed laws stating it will protect the welfare of fish. Political pressure is needed to see that its own findings carry through into legislative detail.

GET TO KNOW US

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS



2007: Ban on imports of wild-caught wild birds



2009: New Transport Rules for Farm Animals



2009: EU ban on trade in seal products



2009: The legal obligation under the EU Treaty to consider animals as sentient beings when drafting legislation



2010: European declaration on the alternatives to surgical castration of pigs



2010: Council conclusions on cats and dogs



2012: First practical guidelines to assess fitness for transport of adult bovines published



2013: Animal welfare in Free Trade Agreement with Chile



2013: Alternative of non-animal test methods in research



2015: EU Zoos Directive Good Practices Document published



2016: Addition of key welfare provisions in the Animal Health Law



2016: Adoption of the EU Action Plan against wildlife trafficking



2016: Adoption of nonanimal testing methods for chemicals in REACH regulation



2017: Establishment of the Animal Welfare Platform and four key subgroups on live transport, pigs, pets and equines



2017: Mandatory establishment of Union Reference Centres for Animal Welfare in the Official Controls Regulation



2017: Inclusion of the first fur species in the EU list of Invasive Alien Species

OUR MEMBERS

VALUE THEY GET



REPRESENTING CIVIL SOCIETY AT EU LEVEL REGARDING ANIMAL WELFARE

Working together with Eurogroup for Animals makes us stronger. We have noted hands on how much more effective our message becomes when the same message is conveyed by us at national level and by Eurogroup for Animals at European level. Eurogroup for Animals really helps advance our work nationally.

Last September, we had the pleasure in joining Eurogroup for Animals hand over more than 1 million signatures to the European Commission for the campaign #StopTheTrucks. 140,000 of those signatures came from Swedish citizens, collected by Djurens Rätt. Through our work with Eurogroup for Animals we could make the voice of our citizens heard in the EU."

Camilla Björkbom, President, Djurens Rätt

FOSTERING COHESION, EXCHANGING EXPERIENCES AND DISSEMINATING KNOWLEDGE

Just as wolf packs, when NGOs work together they can aim for bigger results. Being a member of Eurogroup for Animals makes us feel part of a committed group of people working together with a common goal: a world that respects the lives of all animals in the wild."

Francisco Sánchez Molina, International Campaign Coordinator, The Wolf Action Group





CAMPAIGNING TO DRIVE CHANGE IN FAVOUR OF ANIMALS IN EUROPE

66 Eurogroup gives us access to rooms whose doors are difficult otherwise to open. It is for us the safe bridge to all EU institution and the shortcut to tens of hard working animal welfare groups around all European countries. Our global campaign to end live export of animals is so much louder and effective since we joined Eurogroup"

Gabriel Paun, EU Director, Animals International



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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