

THEME

**ENDING THE MODERN
TRAGEDY OF CAGES**

INTERVIEW

Keith Taylor (Greens, EFA)
David Martin (S&D)
John Flack (ECR)

**JOINING
FORCES**

Improve the lives of 7 billion
broiler chickens in the EU

**MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

Follow our work on
animal welfare

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ENDING
THE MODERN
TRAGEDY
OF CAGES



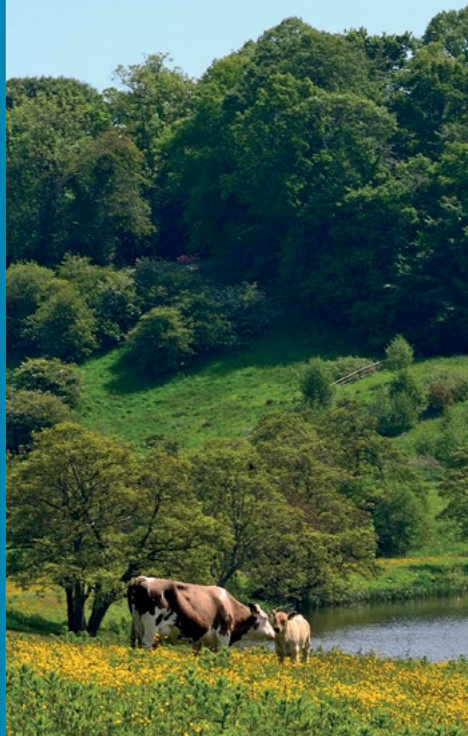
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MEET:

KEITH TAYLOR
MEP (GREENS, EFA)

DAVID MARTIN
MEP (S&D)

JOHN FLACK
MEP (ECR)



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MAKING A
DIFFERENCE



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EDITORIAL

A MOVEMENT STANDING UP FOR FARM ANIMALS

At the end of September, we were part of a historic moment at the European Parliament in Brussels: the launch of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) "End the Cage Age." The event marks the beginning of a global shift away from one of the most controversial practices in animal farming, the use of cages. It was very encouraging to see that over 100 animal advocacy groups and dozens of MEPs gathered to express their support.

As you may know, citizens' initiatives can be used to petition the European Commission to draft new legislative proposals. Such initiatives, though, take an enormous amount of work and popular support as they require at least one million validated signatures. Since 2007, there have only been five successful initiatives out of fifty attempts which were sanctioned by the Commission.

As the animal movement gains momentum, I believe this citizens' initiative represents an immense opportunity for us to showcase our strengths while harnessing the potential of the movement's expanding popular support. Together with the facilitator of the campaign, Compassion in World Farming, and the rest of our sixty-five member organisations, we have to make sure this ECI will become truly impactful.

Why is the success of this ECI so important?

We have fought for decades to obtain bans on the most objectionable industrial farming practices such as the continuous confinement of breeding sows and veal calves, or conventional cages for laying hens. There are still too many lopsided compromises, the biggest one being "enriched cages" for hens, but let's



not forget that breeding sows still spend more than 40% of their lives in individual confinement, not to mention the species that don't even have basic legal protection such as rabbits, quails, ducks, and geese.

This type of confined treatment is in stark contradiction with animals' sentient nature, which is recognised by Art. 13 of the Lisbon Treaty (or TFEU) and which is also reflected – at least theoretically – in many pieces of European legislation on farm animal welfare.

We no longer want to live this contradiction. The EU has the perfect legal base to abolish the lynchpin method of a model of animal agriculture that we all want to put behind us for good. Best practices show that it can be done.

Indeed, it's been too long since the EU stood as a beacon of animal welfare progress. This ECI should give impetus to a legislative process on farm animals that has been stagnant over the past eight years. Concurrently, Eurogroup for Animals will continue its work to obtain national legislative bans for enriched cages.

We invite you to read more about our campaign "End the Cage Age" in this edition of the magazine. And please, take a moment to sign the petition right now. As we near the end of the EU's political term, there's so much more on our agenda these days and I'm sure you will enjoy reading the rest of the magazine.

Reineke



Reineke Hameleers
Director, Eurogroup for Animals

**EUROGROUP
FOR ANIMALS**



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THEME

ENDING THE MODERN TRAGEDY OF CAGES

ENDING THE MODERN TRAGEDY OF CAGES

On September 25, twenty-three Eurogroup for Animals member organizations joined the launch of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) to end the use of cages in animal agriculture in the European Union (EU). An ECI is a mechanism introduced with the Treaty of Lisbon in 2007, which enables EU citizens to petition the European Commission to propose legislation in an area of its competence. It must collect at least one million signatures from EU citizens across one quarter of the Member States before being eligible to formally request the European Commission to enact legislation.

Once the requisite signatures are gathered, the ECI coalition intends to formally request the EU Commission to “propose legislation [prohibiting] the use of cages for laying hens, rabbits, pullets, broiler breeders, layer breeders, quail, ducks, and geese; farrowing crates for sows; sow stalls, where not already prohibited; and individual calf pens, where not already prohibited.”

AT THE HEART OF FACTORY FARMING: THE CAGE

The “End the Cage Age” ECI aims to ban the use of cages, an enabler of extreme confinement of animals which has been instrumental in the proliferation and day-to-day functioning of factory farms across Europe.

The presence of cages in animal agriculture can be traced back to the development of large-scale poultry production

in the U.S. in the 1960s, which provided the blueprint for factory farming as we know it today. Producers had understood the benefits of extreme confinement of animals on the profitability of farm animal agriculture long before the second half of the 20th century. However, it is not until innovations in biotechnology, specifically in veterinary medicine through the use of antibiotics, and through animal nutrition with the use of feed additives, that animal agriculture producers began confining animals to such an extreme degree .

After the advent of such technologies, the use of all sorts of cages expanded to confine, isolate, manage, and alienate animals from their own sentient nature at each stage of production. In industrial agricultural settings, cages allow producers to stack animals onto each other, thus reducing the per-animal housing costs while maximising the number of animals raised for food.

Cages also allow producers to monitor and administer feed and medicines while providing them easier access to the animals' reproductive organs when performing heat detection, artificial insemination, and assistance to parturition.

Finally, cages prevent animals from preying on each other, and help ensure that animals do not escape from a system that treats them as mere commodities. In that sense, cages are symptomatic of factory farming's attempts to mold animals to the unnatural environment of industrial production, rather than adapting systems of production to the animals' most basic needs.

“ It’s time to respect animal sentience and end all cages for good. A million signatures on the ECI will show that people want action to end farm animal suffering. This massive campaign is our opportunity to not only end cage cruelty for hens, but also for hundreds of millions of pigs, calves, rabbits, quail, ducks and geese.”



Philip Lymbery, Chief executive, Compassion in World Farming

A BAN ON CAGES HAS BEEN LONG OVERDUE

A brief overview of the economics of factory farming thus highlights the crucial role the cage has played not only as a tool of extreme confinement but as a key to the profitability of factory farms. Yet, the widespread use of cages stands in sharp contradiction with article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which recognizes animals as sentient beings, and mandates that Union and Member States “pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals” in formulating and implementing agricultural policy.

Furthermore, the development of industrial farm animal production, and the array of cruel practices towards animals that comes with it, has occurred in direct opposition to the popular public opinion that “it is important to protect the welfare of farm animals” (Eurobarometer, 2016). This ECI, though crucially important, will therefore be one of many avenues animal advocacy organisations pursue to carry out the wishes of the citizenry and obtain a general ban on the use of cages in the EU by 2027.

For the past twenty years, Eurogroup for Animals has been at the forefront of the movement to ban cages for farmed animals, resulting in a ban on veal crates in 1997, followed by the ban on the use of barren battery cages for laying hens in 1999 and the restrictions on the use of sow stalls in 2001. Today, two Member States (Sweden, UK) have issued a national ban on the use of sow stalls, and three Member States (Austria, Germany, Luxembourg) prohibit the use of battery cages for egg-laying hens, laying the groundwork for a general EU ban on battery cages.

At the same time, corporate commitments to go cage-free secured by animal advocates with major food manufacturers and retailers further demonstrate the growing adaptability of the private sector and its current ability to anticipate a regulatory phase out of cages compared even to five years ago.

These initiatives further reduce the barriers to an EU-wide ban on cage use for farmed animals. To better accompany regulators and businesses, and to ensure the cage-free transition actually translates into higher animal welfare standards, Eurogroup for Animals will present guidelines for best animal welfare practices in cage-free systems later this year.

As the EU continues producing animals for food, it should do so in compliance with the law by offering animals space, adequate food, good health, natural light, and opportunities to engage in social interactions and species-specific behaviours. These lawful, more humane measures would also be much more in line with popular sentiment.

Factory farming and its array of cage sizes and uses was imported and massively implemented in the E.U. in less than 50 years, a relatively brief period of time when we consider thousands of years of human-animal relationships in the context of agriculture. However, fifty years is far too long a chapter for these cruel methods. For the good of animals and future generations, now is the time to close this dark chapter of cages in our agricultural history.

➤ Sign the petition at ciwf-int.endthecageage.eu to End The Cage Age



➤ This Europe-wide petition was initiated by Compassion In World Farming in partnership with Eurogroup for Animals and the support of more than 130 NGOs.

The Goal:



1 million signatures
From 7 member States

So far:



140,000 + signatures
Collected in 30 days

Deadline:



11 September 2019

Involved:



130+ organisations
participating



INTERVIEW

As the Brexit deadline nears and uncertainties loom, we spoke with three British MEPs from the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals. We asked them what their opinions are on the potential impact Brexit may have for animal welfare.



KEITH TAYLOR,
GROUP OF THE GREENS/
EUROPEAN FREE ALLIANCE
(GREENS, EFA)

EU membership has undoubtedly been positive for animal welfare in the UK. To what extent do you think the EU standards will continue to impact on British standards after the 29th of March, next year?

From MPs voting against maintaining the EU's legal recognition of animal sentience to the government's stated intentions to push for a TTIP-like trade deal with the US, the prospect of farmed animal welfare standards being eroded are real and frightening. Add to that the announcement that UK Ministers intend not to apply new EU rules on overmedicating farmed animals and the future of millions of animals in Britain doesn't look so bright. By championing chlorinated chicken meat and hormone-fed cows, Liam Fox, UK International Trade Secretary, has signalled that post-Brexit, the Tories are willing to sacrifice animal welfare standards on the altar of free trade.

You represent a constituency that is closely linked to the export of live animals. What do you think of the prospects of this activity post Brexit?

Greens support a ban on barbaric live animal exports. I've supported campaigners in Kent and across Europe in campaigning for an end to the cruelty.

Leading Brexit campaigners claimed leaving the EU would be the answer. But since 2016, those campaigners, now Ministers, have shown that their promises are hollow. Michael Gove, for example, has already reneged on his pledge to ban live exports post-Brexit.

I have always been honest; Brexit is not a silver bullet. The EU and WTO both enshrine the free movement of goods in their rules, the difference being that Britain has no democratic say in changing WTO rules.



DAVID MARTIN,
GROUP OF THE PROGRESSIVE
ALLIANCE OF SOCIALISTS AND
DEMOCRATS IN THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT (S&D)

EU animal welfare standards are currently protected in a large part due to the fact that the EU is a regulatory super power. Do you think the UK will be able to maintain the same level of animal welfare after Brexit with its new trade deals?

This will depend on the leverage that the UK will have when negotiating its own trade deals. The EU as a whole, as negotiator, has of course more leverage to convince our trading partners to adhere to high animal welfare standards

EU citizens want animal welfare standards to be defended and advanced through free trade agreements. What opportunities do you see for animal welfare in any UK – EU trade agreement?

Animal welfare is very important also for UK citizens. I would therefore expect any UK government to push for high animal welfare standards in UK FTAs. But the above will of course apply.



JOHN FLACK,
EUROPEAN CONSERVATIVES AND
REFORMISTS GROUP (ECR)

Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future of animal welfare in the UK post Brexit and why?

I am certainly optimistic. The UK already has one of the best Animal Welfare records in the world. Our current Government has improved matters further recently by, for example, introducing mandatory CCTV in slaughter-house, banning “puppy farms” and the sale of ivory.

In what areas do you think the UK can go beyond existing EU standards post Brexit?

When we are free of the constraints of the EU we will be able to choose to legislate further, for example to ban live export for slaughter from our shores. I hope to also see “enriched” cages for hens banned and a single, clearer, uniform labelling scheme for meat introduced, so consumers can easily choose based on methods of rearing and slaughter. I hope the UK will set the Gold standard that the EU27 will want to follow.

PUTTING ANIMAL WELFARE AT THE HEART OF FUTURE CAP:

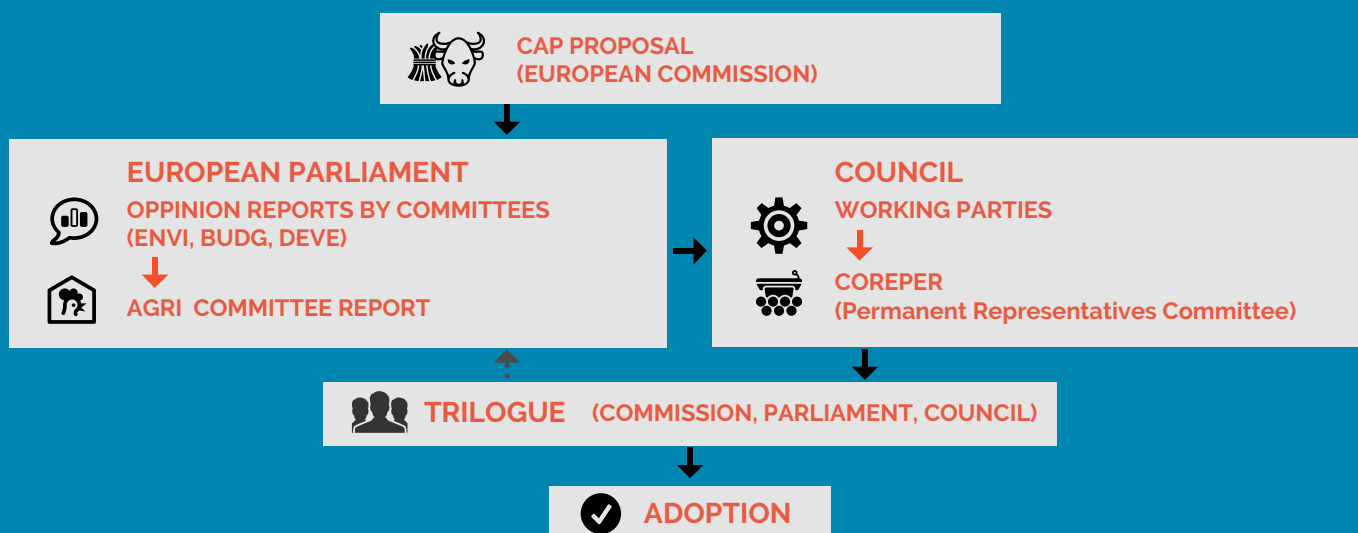
The European Commission released its legislative proposal for the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in June 2018. Following that, in July 2018, the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals discussed this proposal and the opportunities a legislative framework provides to promote higher animal welfare in the EU.

Herbert Dorfmann MEP (EPP, IT), the rapporteur of the European Parliament’s (EP) own initiative report on the future of food and farming, stressed the need for clear, understandable and transparent targets in the CAP, including on animal welfare.

Eurogroup for Animals highlighted that animal welfare should be recognised as a public good and that, in the new CAP, payments should go to the farm systems that go beyond the legislative animal welfare standards.

The Commission’s current proposal includes animal welfare in the objectives of the CAP and offers an opportunity to address welfare through measures combating antimicrobial resistance. However, the proposal does not guarantee a dedicated budget for animal welfare measures and fails to make welfare initiatives compulsory.

The process towards adoption is a complex one and it is not expected to finish in the current legislation of the European Parliament.



IN EUROPE

#Act4Wildlife

A MAJORITY OF EUROPEAN CITIZENS CONDEMN THE USE OF WILD ANIMALS IN CIRCUSES



Wild animals do not belong in circuses: this is the opinion of a majority of Europeans surveyed for a new YouGov opinion poll conducted for Netherlands-based NGO AAP Animal Advocacy and Protection on the occasion of World Animal Day.

All over Europe there is now widespread opposition to the use of wild animals in circuses. Only less of a quarter of those polled say they should still be allowed. The study reveals some interesting contradictions: some of the larger EU members have a strikingly high proportion of respondents that think wild animals should not be allowed in circuses (63% in Germany, 71% in Italy, 73% in Spain, and a staggering 76% in the UK). However, none of these countries have implemented a national ban as is the case in 17 countries.

#Act4Science

GAIA SECURES CONCRETE MILESTONES TO REDUCE THE USE OF ANIMALS IN SCIENCE



The Government of the Brussels Region has committed to phase out the use of primates, dogs, and cats for scientific purposes by January 2020. It has also promised to reduce the use of animals in applied research by 20% by 2025. This is the result of a compromise reached after discussions with stakeholders, where an initial target had been set to reduce the use of animals by 30% in research, testing, and education by 2025. Overall, these are the first concrete measures taken by a Member State to phase out the use of animals in science. The processes through which these milestones will be achieved are being discussed now.

#FurFreeEU

FUR FARMS SOON TO BE BANNED IN FRANCE?



L214 cofounder Sébastien Arzac recently called for France to join 12 other European countries in banning fur farming. He made this statement on France 2's "Cash Investigation," a popular investigative TV show. He also condemned the fur farm practices and conditions which had been uncovered by the investigators on the show.

"Farms do not respect the biological needs of animals at all," Arzac said. As an example, minks are semi-aquatic animals which need to go into water and space to roam. Minks in the wild can easily cover distances up to six kilometers per day. However, in most fur farms, minks are kept in small cages for their entire lives.

#Act4Pets

NEW UK GUIDELINES FOR INSPECTION OF COMMERCIAL AND NON-COMMERCIAL ANIMAL ESTABLISHMENTS

New guidelines for inspection of companion animals' commercial and non-commercial establishments have been published in the July 2018 edition of *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*, a peer-reviewed open access scientific journal. The report, which has been endorsed by the Animal Protection Agency, an NGO based in the UK, is the result of six years of research by an international team of leading scientists and veterinarians.

This is a comprehensive guide for facilities' managers and inspectors that pertains not only to cats and dogs, but also to invertebrates, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, exotic mammals, and birds, species for which welfare is frequently and inherently compromised by captive conditions. Space for animals, responsible handover, facility layout, human health and safety, and a dedicated scoring tool are among many procedures detailed in the publication.



#Act4Pets

GREEK GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTS EU LAWS REQUIRING IDENTIFICATION OF ALL EQUINES

Two years of campaigns are finally showing results: Greek animal welfare organisations have convinced the Greek Government to implement the European Commission Regulations (EU) 2015/262 (<http://bit.ly/2KzTJYO>), commonly known as the Equine Passport Regulation. More than 12,000 letters from concerned citizens were handed over by Ippothesis together with Animal Action Hellas to the competent Greek Ministers asking for the better protection of equidae.

Lacking proper identification, horses, donkeys and mules couldn't be linked to the person responsible for their welfare, which were thus able to escape their legal responsibilities. Thanks to the new legislation, owners are now required by law to care responsibly for their animals and ensure that welfare standards are upheld. Failure to look after their animals properly will result in legal penalties for the owners.

#Act4FarmAnimals

ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS WILL NOT BE LOWERED IN NEW UK AGRICULTURAL BILL

RSPCA expressed its satisfaction with the new UK agricultural Bill which recognizes animal welfare as a public good and financially supports higher animal welfare standards. They have also welcomed the government's commitment to keep animal welfare standards in any future trade deals and to no longer base agricultural payments on food production.

#Act4FarmAnimals

FACT-FINDING MISSION UNCOVERS ANIMAL ABUSE IN LIVE TRANSPORT OPERATIONS


In July and August, MEPs involved in the Implementation Report on live transport went on a fact-finding mission to assess the conditions of animals transported alive for agricultural industry. Accompanied by members of Eurogroup for Animals, Animals International, and AWF/TSB; MEPs Dohrmann, Eck, Hazekamp, and Weitz inspected important EU ports as well as transport sites at the Bulgarian/Turkish border. The group discovered animals in terrible conditions, suffering as a result of the trade. Their findings contradict the EU Commission's claim that there is virtually 100% compliance with EU Regulation (EC) 1/2005 across EU. The MEPs intend to present their evidence in the upcoming Implementation Report, which will be published in early 2019.

#Act4FarmAnimals

INVESTIGATION REVEALS HORRIFIC CONDITIONS IN ITALIAN INDUSTRIAL FISH FARMS

The Guardian released a shocking investigation conducted by Essere Animali that uncovers terrible conditions on European 'factory farms' for fish. These largely unregulated, cruel practices expose the lack of fish' legal protection in spite of being widely accepted as sentient beings.

The distressing footage shows sea bream, sea bass and trout in ice-filled containers enduring suffocation that sometimes lasts up to an hour. Some fish never manage to reach containers or slabs, ending up on the floor where they get squashed and left to slow, painful death. Part of the footage exposes an aggressive act of squeezing out fish roe which causes a lot of stress for the animals.



Breast, wings, nuggets. Chicken is one of the world's favourite meats, as it is cheap and widely available. Fifty billion broilers were killed globally in 2016 (103,500 thousand tonnes), 7 billion of which were slaughtered in the EU.





JOINING FORCES

TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF 7 BILLION BROILER CHICKEN

BROILER PRODUCTION IN NUMBERS

Breast, wings, nuggets. Chicken is one of the world's favourite meats, as it is cheap and widely available. Fifty billion broilers were killed globally in 2016 (103,500 thousand tonnes), 7 billion of which were slaughtered in the EU. These numbers are staggering, and yet the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations predicts global poultry production will continue to increase, rising with demand.

THE INDUSTRIAL MODEL

To satisfy this growing global demand, most broiler chickens are kept under **intensive industrial conditions**, which minimise inputs (such as feed) and maximise outputs (weight gain). The average broiler chicken currently lives only 6 weeks, and is selected for such fast growth – primarily of the breast muscles – that this is the primary cause of serious health and welfare problems, even leading to death. This model, which is often showcased by the poultry industry as being an example of efficiency and sustainability, comes at a high price, and not just for the animals.

To start with, broiler chickens are deprived of lives worth living. These birds are housed by the thousands in big sheds, with less than an A4 sheet of space available per individual, on litter that becomes increasingly wet and dirty, and air that becomes saturated with ammonia from their own droppings. They have no possibility to forage, dust bathe, nest, perch, rest undisturbed, or express any other normal behaviour. They are commonly afflicted by lameness, painful feet and breast sores, respiratory and gastrointestinal diseases, and cardiovascular problems. There is no care

for the individual animal: even assuming a mortality of 1% throughout the rearing period, this still means that every year 70 millions of broiler chickens die of ill health in the EU.

These conditions also have an impact on human health: according to a new report published by Agribusiness Consulting (AC), the therapeutic use of antimicrobials in intensive broiler rearing practices is contributing to the increase in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in bacteria such as *Campylobacter* spp., *Salmonella* spp., and *E.coli*. While the poultry industry claims they are committed to reducing the use of antimicrobials that are important for human health, this reduction hasn't yet been uniform across the EU.

Finally, intensive broiler farming produces ammonia emissions, with negative effects on animals and humans. As highlighted in the AC report, soil and water acidification, eutrophication and subsequent loss in biodiversity, and greenhouse gas emissions are all major problems associated with ammonia deposition.

TOOTHLESS LEGISLATION

The industrial model of broiler rearing benefits from the absence of a mandatory method of production labelling, which impedes consumers from driving the demand for alternative systems (such as higher welfare indoors or free range).

The EU poultry marketing standards already define some very specific types of poultry production that can be labelled, but not all systems are covered, and labelling of poultry meat is voluntary. A harmonised and mandatory method of production labelling for poultry meat, similar to

“ *These sentient animals live in such agony, with their most basic needs neglected, that intellectual honesty requires ‘minimum protection’ to be rethought in light of current practices. Several other key welfare issues currently remain neglected such as the use of slower growing breeds, a decreased stocking density, improved environmental standards, more humane slaughter methods and proper third party auditing. And even for measures that are addressed in the Directive, implementation and enforcement is at best inconsistent, and at worst shockingly weak.*”

Reineke Hameleers, Director,
Eurogroup for Animals

that used for shell eggs, would be a powerful instrument to drive higher welfare in broiler chicken production systems, as was the case for laying hens.

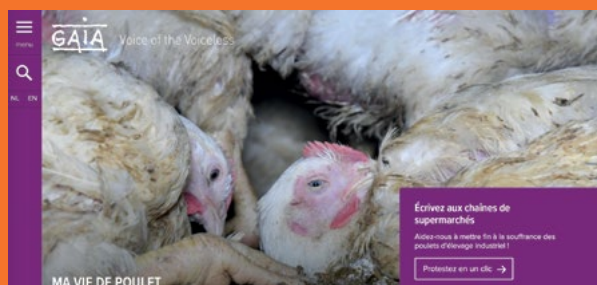
The so-called ‘Broiler Directive’ (**Council Directive 2007/43/EC**) lists minimum requirements for conventional broiler chicken production, but these provisions have so far failed to ensure even basic standards of animal welfare. In 2017, a European Commission study on the implementation of the Broiler Directive could not draw any conclusions on the level of broiler welfare in the EU due to widespread discrepancies in monitoring and reporting mechanisms across Member States, as well as the lack of implementation of the few animal welfare indicators foreseen by the law. Additionally, the Broiler Directive does not include provisions for broiler breeders (parent animals). These animals have specific welfare problems that need to be addressed.

A CALL FOR ACTION

To keep animals healthier in living conditions that respond to their needs, Eurogroup for Animals, together with its members, is advocating for a shift towards rearing systems using higher welfare breeds along with more space for the animals as well as enrichment materials and natural light. Improving animal welfare in broiler chicken farming is a win-win: higher welfare breeds are healthier than conventional broiler breeds and consequently require fewer antimicrobials *and* rearing animals in better conditions responds to the expectations of European consumers. These reforms would also make sense economically, as evidenced by the success of higher welfare assurance schemes such as Beter Leven in the Netherlands, whose market share for poultry meat is now approaching 20% of the total sales value at the national level.

INITIATIVES AND SUCCESSES SO FAR:

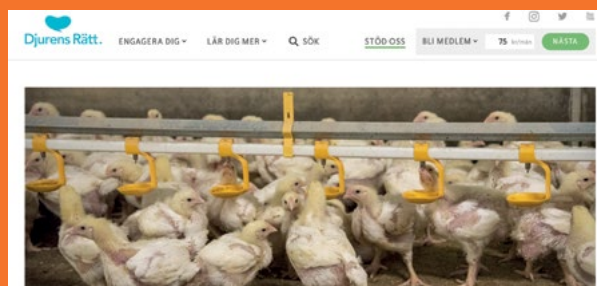
In 2018 **GAIA** launched the new campaign “**Ma vie de Poulet**” and it is taking contact with a growing number of companies to do not sell chicken meat coming from animals raised in conventional systems. In March 2018 Gaia published a report on the true cost of chicken meat.



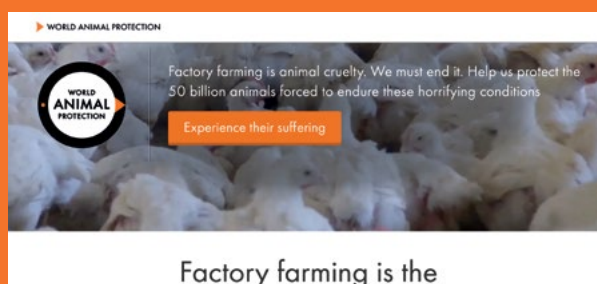
In 2018 the organisation **L214** launched the Campaign **#800millions** denouncing the terrible conditions of broilers in **France**. L214 is now meeting with major retailers to offer higher welfare chicken meat in French supermarkets.



Djurens Rätt launched in September 2018 the campaign “**99 miljoner**” with the aim to show the cruelty behind the broiler chicken production in Sweden.



End Factory farming is the **World Animal Protection** world-wide campaign, calling on big corporates to adopt higher welfare standards for broiler chickens.





MAKING A DIFFERENCE

**FOLLOW OUR
WORK FOR
ANIMAL WELFARE**



IT'S TIME TO PHASE OUT THE USE OF PRIMATES IN RESEARCH

Luísa Ferreira Bastos,
Animals in Science Programme Leader

The use of primates in science is again in the spotlight. Can we ever justify the use and confinement of these highly social and sensitive beings in laboratories?

In neuroscience, primates frequently develop severe infections due to head implants. They are deprived of water to comply during experiments, and their heads are restrained for long periods of time. Their physiology after severe experiments has been compared to that of people with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Recent undercover footage released by Animal Defenders International shows the routine suffering of primates at Europe's largest Biomedical Primate Research Centre (BPRC) in the Netherlands. The images are shocking because they show how the stressful environment of the laboratory alone leads to open wounds from fighting, and psychosomatic injuries such as complete rectal prolapses occur as a consequence of stress.

BPRC is expected to draft a proposal to the Dutch Government on how to reduce the number of primates used in research by 40%. However, sustaining a scientific strategy solely on the opinion of animal users, representing only part of the scientific community, is surely unwise, given their proven bias in favor of animal experimentation. It is important to listen to the many times forgotten forefront researchers who have the progressive answers for a paradigm change in science.

During September's meeting of the Intergroup for the Welfare and Conservation of Animals, the neuroscientist Francesca Pistollato, from the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, explained how the use of animals from rats to monkeys is failing to provide responses to the growing severe neurologic diseases of this century.

After decades of research with promising treatments for diseases like Parkinson's and Alzheimer's in non-human animals, no treatment has worked for humans. Dr. Pistollato, together with Dr. Taylor from the European Coalition to End Animal Experiments, put forward the scientific methods and approaches that are today providing human-relevant knowledge that can lead to successful new therapies.

The Intergroup is now committed to follow-up on a 2007 Parliamentary Resolution calling for a timetable to replace the use of primates within the EU. Conducting a scientific review, led by JRC, to establish a concrete strategy to move towards non-animal approaches in basic neuroscience would represent an important measure, according to a recommendation made by the Intergroup. These concrete steps are essential to move towards achieving the final goal of full replacement of procedures on live animals for scientific purposes as soon as possible.



NEW REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE STRESSES THE NEED

FOR PREVENTING CONFLICTS WITH LARGE CARNIVORES, TO IMPROVE COEXISTENCE

Ilaria di Silvestre, Wildlife Programme Leader

A new report published in August by the Agriculture Committee of the European Parliament (<http://bit.ly/2zr57BK>) summarises the impact of large carnivores on livestock production and explores the potential of different interventions to mitigate such impact. Key findings of the report are that overall, losses due to large carnivores amount to 0.05% of the over-wintering sheep stock in EU countries. The losses are highest in husbandry systems where sheep graze freely in forest and mountain habitats without night-time fencing, shepherds, or dogs to protect them.

The report stresses that the most effective measures to protect livestock involve robust electric fencing, night-time gathering of livestock into carnivore-proof enclosures, and the use of shepherds with livestock guarding dogs on open pastures. Significant benefits also come from switching to breeds that exhibit strong anti-predator behaviour.

Relying on the unselective culling of carnivores is not viable, because of legal constraints, ethical considerations, high costs and low effectivity. The report's conclusions reflect the analysis of an earlier European Parliament's Committee of Petitions report showcasing best practices in EU Member States on Large Carnivore Management Plans of Protection (<http://bit.ly/2Sbp3zz>).

Disappointingly, many MEPs took the floor claiming that wolves in particular pose an ever-growing threat to other animals, humans, and biodiversity in many regions in Europe when the report was presented in Parliament. Subsequently, and contrary to the report's conclusions, they called for large predator populations to be reduced as a mitigation measure.

The debate is ongoing and jointly with our member organisations across Europe, we will continue to actively contribute to the debate nationally and at EU level. Large carnivores are a protected group of animal species considered of 'Community Interest' under the EU's Habitat Directive. We will continue to actively contribute, as an accredited expert to the ongoing revision of the protection guidance for animals under the Habitats Directive, opposing attempts to downscale the protection of large carnivores and to facilitate lethal management.



UNLEASHING MEMBER ORGANISATIONS' AMBITIONS FOR FISH WELFARE

Douglas Waley, Fish Welfare Programme Leader

Eurogroup for Animals' fish welfare programme in 2018 included a scheme making grants to Member Organisations for their own fish welfare projects. With ten funded projects currently underway across Europe, fish welfare has not only gained momentum in EU fora but also in national contexts. Animal advocacy groups across Europe are now able to put resources behind their ambitions for the welfare of fish.

Animal Friends Croatia has engaged regional authorities on the implementation of existing laws protecting the welfare of fish, and they are now running public information campaigns with those authorities. Those fluent in Croatian will be the first able to benefit from an online cookbook with vegan seafood recipes.

Animalia has been running a flagship campaign in Finland. They developed a series of thematic animated videos on a dedicated website section, published informative articles, distributed other promotional materials, and achieved media coverage throughout in a range of national and regional newspapers.

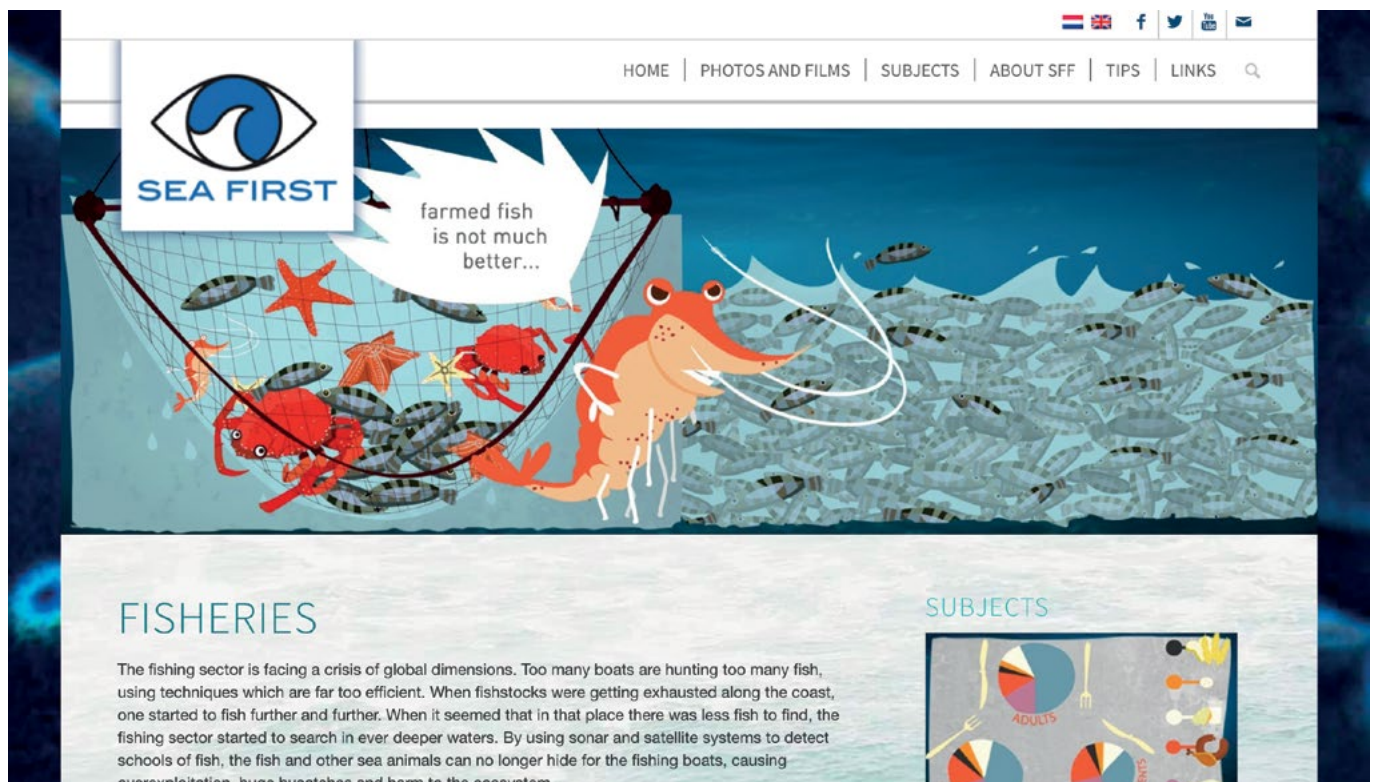
In the Netherlands, a public exhibition in Amsterdam focussed on fish welfare has recently come to the end. Organised by Dierenbescherming it also integrated fish into existing communication channels with an online quiz, short animation, board game, and infographics series.

OneKind in Scotland published a detailed report into welfare issues in salmon farming. Together with an investigative journalism group, OneKind carried out an investigation of Scotland's salmon sector, and their collaborative findings have been presented in the national press and in a documentary podcast. They've also engaged ongoing parliamentary inquiries considering the future of the sector, and are running a campaign and petition to halt expansion of the sector.

Sea First Foundation has developed a new lesson package, now being delivered in schools across The Netherlands, Belgium, and beyond.

FAADA has just launched an online campaign in Spain, bringing information and engaging materials to the country catching, importing, and consuming more fish than any other in the EU.

More projects across Europe are currently underway, and Member Organisations of Eurogroup for Animals are translating and transforming each other's materials for use in their own countries. The first steps of a widespread and normalised focus on the welfare of fish is well under way.



GET TO KNOW US

MEMBERS SET THE COURSE TO 2027

One year of internal consultations and strategy workshops finally resulted in an ambitious and promising 2027 strategy for Eurogroup for Animals, formally adopted at our June Annual General Meeting. This adoption was the crowning of an intense and inclusive consultation process.



The strategy contains a detailed analysis of the environment in which we operate and anchors our vision, mission, operating model, and advocacy tactics for the coming decade. It also details the impact for animals we want to see by 2027 through top-line objectives in each work area.

During the interactive sessions at the AGM, members were asked what they can do to implement the strategy now that it has been finished. The most common reply was that they will now ensure their own strategic plans draw on and support the overarching aims of the movement as a whole.

“ The Board members and I were delighted to see that so many members took the opportunity to give their input into the strategy development. We have taken all the feedback very seriously and worked hard to incorporate our members’ views and suggestions. The result is there, and I’m incredibly proud of the outcome!”

Britta Riis, President

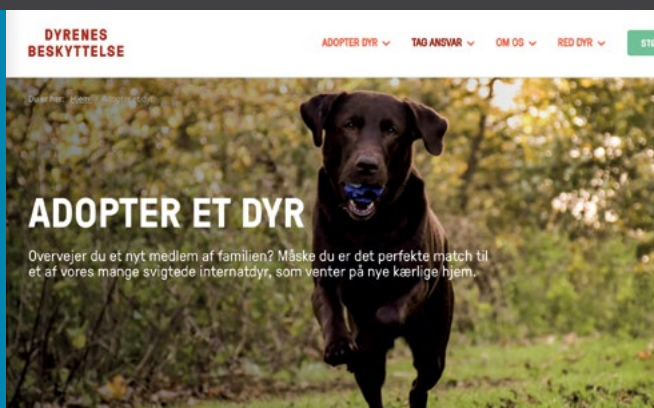
OUR MEMBERS

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS MEMBERS HAVE RESPONDED TO THE SUMMER PET CRISIS PETS CONTINUE TO BE ABANDONED IN SUMMER AND OUR MEMBERS CONTINUE TO DEAL

Companion animals, especially pets are abandoned every day. Rescue organisations all over Europe spend their summers responding to the worst abandonment period of the year.

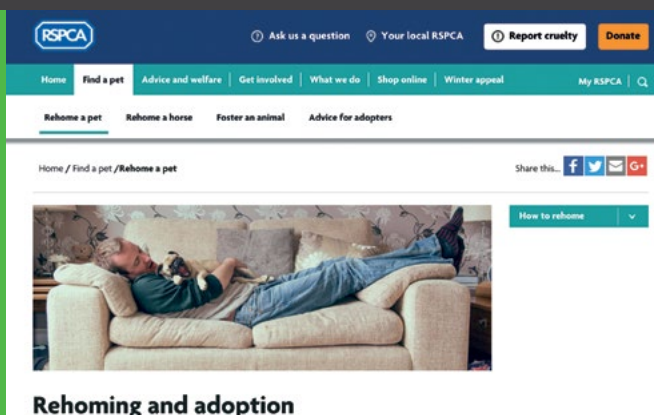
There are multiple reasons for animals being abandoned in the summer: pets received as Christmas presents have grown up, the difficulty of finding a sitter during the vacation, or the added cost of travelling with the pet are just some of them.



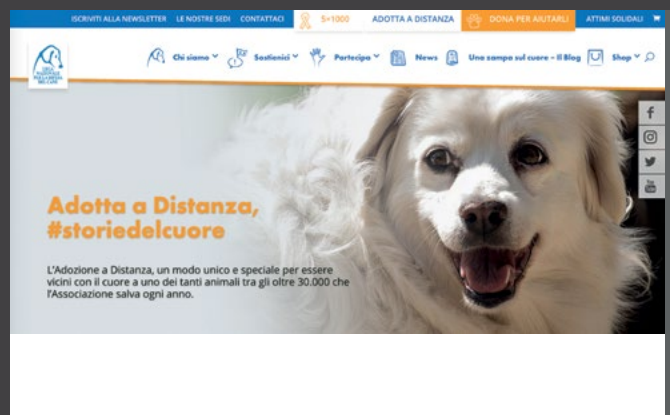
DYRENES BESKYTTELSE is not only running a network of eight shelters covering the entire territory, but they also provide a lost and found service with almost 200 animals on their adoption list. They find new homes for 16 animals each day, which brings the annual number close to 6000.



France holds the ignoble European record for the number of abandoned dogs and cats: the shelters are overcrowded as 100,000 dogs and cats are abandoned each year. Through adoption, **THE BRIGITTE BARDOT FOUNDATION** offers a new home to more than 500 cats and 400 dogs each year.



In the UK, over 9,000 animals are rescued by the RSPCA alone, one third of them in the summer months. In July, the peak month for pet abandonment, that amounts to 1.5 animals per hour. The RSPCA offers a complete range of services from rescue, sheltering, adoption and rehoming.



Thanks to the work of **LEGA NATIONALE PER LA DIFENSA DEL CANE (LND)**, in 2017, over 10,000 animals have found homes in Italy. At the same time approximately 7,000 dogs, a few thousand cats, and hundreds of other animals find daily care and shelter.



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.

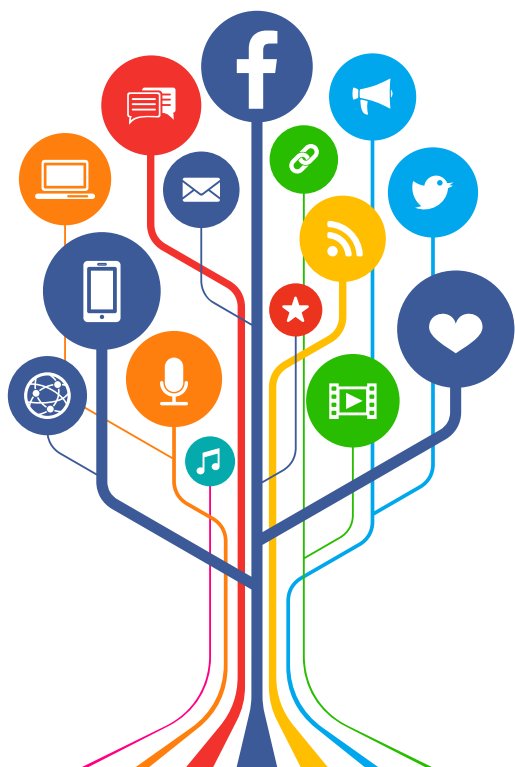


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