

THEME

**THE EFFECTS OF THE COMMON
AGRICULTURAL POLICY ON ANIMAL WELFARE**



INTERVIEW

Janusz Wojciechowski,
European Court of
Auditors

**JOINING
FORCES**

To bulletproof the internet
against illegal puppy dealers

**OUR NEW
CAMPAIGN**

VoteForAnimals2019

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE: The cage-free revolution is here to stay



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Reineke Hameleers
Director, Eurogroup for Animals

**EUROGROUP
FOR ANIMALS**

EDITORIAL

FRESH PERSPECTIVES FOR EUROPEANS ANIMALS

We started the year at a fast pace, as with the European elections and changing of the guard in the Commission on the horizon, many dossiers need to be ready by the end of March.

Our advocates are working hard to make sure the new Common Agricultural Policy will better deliver for animals. As you will read on page 4-5, only 1.5% of the money is being spent on animal welfare, whereas significant funding is invested in intensive livestock systems. We see huge opportunities here.

As I write these lines, we have also seen the adoption of the very important animal transport Implementation Report in the European Parliament (page 16), after 2 years' intensive campaigning by animal advocates through Eurogroup for Animals' *#stopthetrucks* campaign. The European Commission must now initiate the shift towards replacing live transport with meat and carcasses only, and in the meantime we'll keep pressure on Member States and

the Commission to make sure that animals are not transported during high temperatures or to countries where the EU provisions are not respected.

Another key campaign this year is the European Citizens Initiative to *End the Cage Age*. I'm thrilled to announce that we just reached over 500,000 signatures, and call on you to spread the word to help us meet the million target very soon.

Another important goal for this year is a successful *VoteForAnimals2019* campaign to put animal welfare at the heart of the EU election. Our 62 members in 23 EU member states are gearing up to ask candidate MEPs to make a pledge for animal welfare with specific objectives for the next political term. This will enable us to inform citizens about their candidates' positions and make their own positive changes for animals at EU level by voting only for those that sign the pledge, as well as rallying political support that we hope will continue long after the election.

Then in November the new Commission will take the helm. We

trust that the candidates for the Presidency will listen to the millions of citizens who believe the EU needs to act for animals and break through the legislative stalemate we have been facing for many years. Indeed, it has been a struggle to obtain meaningful results for animals given the moratorium on new animal welfare legislation. This must change.

In this ever globalising world, our focus is not restricted to the EU. With the UK probably leaving the EU at the end of March and the increasing number of trade deals that are a possible threat to Europe's welfare standards, we are working across borders to better protect animals. While presenting a certain level of risk, this nevertheless opens up new and important opportunities to make an impact for animals outside the EU and protect our standards.

My wish for this year is for us to capitalise on the fresh opportunities for animals, and I hope the Magazine will inspire you to join us in doing so.

Reineke Hameleers
Director, Eurogroup for Animals

ANDRZEJ SKOWRON
BARANEKNEBOZY

THEME

GETTING THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY UP TO SPEED ON ANIMAL WELFARE

Since 2009, the European Union recognises animals as sentient beings in its founding treaties. But the EU does much more than simply admitting the obvious: it imposed an obligation on the EU's institutions and the Member States to *fully* take into account the welfare of animals in the design and implementation of EU policies. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is the first, biggest, and one of the few pieces of legislation entirely decided at the EU level, accounting for almost half of the EU's entire budget – around €58 billion yearly. In paying European farmers in exchange for producing food in a certain way, the CAP determines which type of farming practices are likely to thrive in the EU.

Yet the one piece of legislation which most affects the lives of the seven billion farm animals raised and slaughtered each year in the EU only contains a few provisions on animal welfare. In fact, animal welfare requirements as an eligibility criterion for subsidies were included in the CAP in the early 2000s, but it wasn't enough to prevent the proliferation of intensive farming. As a result, cruel practices are becoming increasingly common on European farms – in [France](#), the [UK](#), [Poland](#) and [Spain](#), to name a few countries.

The present CAP will expire in 2020 and a new one is being discussed in the European Parliament and Council. The EU's subsidy scheme is in need of a deep reform to ensure it meets our societies' biggest challenges and expectations concerning our food system. Yet the reforms addressed so far are limited to the administrative intricacies of payment redistribution by the European Commission and the Member States: a shame, given the considerable effect the CAP has on animal welfare and its potential to improve food policies.

TO WHAT EXTENT DOES THE CAP IGNORE ANIMAL WELFARE?

To understand to what extent the CAP is ignoring animal welfare, it is important to know how it is structured. The CAP is divided into two main “pillars”, with Pillar One aiming to give farmers subsidies in exchange for producing agricultural products: crops for human or animal consumption, and livestock. Pillar Two provides additional funding for practices that go beyond legal requirements – for example, to farmers who raise free range chickens. Within this second pillar, Member States are allowed to choose the types of practices they wish to fund.

Under Pillar One, enforcement of EU animal welfare legislation is at least partly required for producers to receive CAP payments. In other words, a livestock producer who fails to comply with certain minimal requirements – such as enrichment materials for pigs – will receive a reduced amount of subsidies. This measure is popular among EU citizens, with 82% in favor of reducing subsidy payments for non-compliance (Eurobarometer, 2016).

However, the CAP doesn't cover all species – poultry welfare requirements are still excluded, for instance, despite the fact that there are two specific pieces of EU legislation imposing minimum welfare standards for laying hens and for broilers.

Even for animals which are included in the CAP's welfare provisions, compliance is not always guaranteed. For example, the EU Court of Auditors recently found that not all farms receiving money from Pillar One were being checked for adherence to the CAP's welfare provisions, with some Member States' inspection systems leaving farms – sometimes those most in risk of violations – outside their scope.

As for Pillar Two, even though some Member States may have specifically chosen to fund animal welfare practices that go the extra mile, not all of them actually spent according to that express intention under the current CAP – 16 out of 28 Member States only, and for an amount totalling only 1.5% of the entire pillar.

Secondly, while you would think if a farmer is getting Pillar Two subsidies for the extra animal welfare measures, he or she would also be complying with the legal requirements of Pillar One, the EU Court of Auditors has revealed that this is not the case. Examples include farmers who are providing more space per pig than is required by EU law while not complying with minimal legal requirements in other areas, such as painful tail docking.

An additional issue is that in listing the best practices they choose to fund under Pillar Two, Member States often incentivise those that are detrimental to animal welfare. Funding for modernisation could lead to the building of a state-of-the-art intensive farm, for example.

SQUARING ANIMAL WELFARE INTO THE CIRCLE OF INTENSIVE LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

Since its creation in the early 1960s, the CAP has incentivised the increase in production of animal-based food products; first as a way to ensure EU's food security, and more recently to gain global market share. By doing so, it has undermined an already weak animal welfare policy objective.

At its current level, the CAP gives revenue to farmers for raising animals for consumption purposes to such an extent that animal agriculture accounts for 40% of the EU's agricultural production, according to [Eurostat's Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery statistics from 2018](#). As a result, production methods have been further industrialised, making extreme confinement and painful mutilations the norm in EU animal agriculture.

By incentivising the production of animals for food, the CAP also influences consumer patterns. Firstly, the more animals are produced for food, the more consumers will find animal products in supermarkets, and the cheaper those products will be. Secondly, to maintain consumption levels of animal products, certain intensive producers benefit from opportunities available under the CAP such as the EU's marketing campaigns to promote and sell their products. For instance, certain Italian PDO pork producers have continued to benefit from these opportunities despite repeatedly violating minimal EU animal welfare standards.

Similarly, the CAP gives privileged access to specific markets with programmes such as the EU "School Scheme," providing milk to school kids across the EU, but also

enabling producers to use European schools as a dumping ground for an overproduced commodity while influencing young Europeans' food habits.

SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT ANIMAL WELFARE ON THE CAP MENU

Not only has the CAP neglected to properly take animal sentience into account, it has led to a broken food system which fails animals, farmers, consumers and citizens alike. The CAP reform is a unique opportunity to reverse the trend of industrial farm animal production. To further the EU's mandate to respect animal sentience, we must demand that the cruelest forms of animal exploitation must be ineligible for any type of public funding (subsidies and market measures), higher welfare systems rewarded and inspection systems in EU States strengthened throughout the Union. Only this would make the CAP consistent with the EU Treaty, and the EU a credible role model for animal welfare for the rest of the world.

"It goes without saying that good treatment of animals has to be a cornerstone of the CAP. Unfortunately that is not the case at the moment, and the Environment Committee has given a clear signal that this has to change. The time has come for a fairer CAP for all, including animals. That means we have to face industrial farming and its tremendous impacts on the environment, biodiversity and farm animal welfare."



MEP Bas Eickhout,
rapporteur on the CAP (Greens)

EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICES that the CAP can fund*



Allowing calves to drink milk and stay with mother



Free farrowing and nesting areas for pigs



Avoiding of tail docking for pigs or beak cutting for laying hens



Perches for poultry

Outdoor access (free range or pasture)

No tethering of animals



INTERVIEW

MEET JANUSZ WOJCIECHOWSKI,

MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS (AE)

Your continuous efforts for the promotion of animal welfare are exceptional. What is your motivation for this and where do you identify the greatest challenges?

Mahatma Gandhi said that the greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated. The EU has some of the world's highest regulatory standards of animal welfare, and my wish is that it continues to demonstrate its progress in this field.

The greatest challenge the EU faces relates to the transformation of agriculture and traditional breeding systems into industrial systems, where farms are simply becoming meat factories. In intensive farms, the higher the stocking density, the higher the profits – but the more difficult it becomes to meet animal welfare needs. That's why an effective control system ensuring consistent application of standards is so important.

Following the results of the recent ECA audit, what measures should be taken to effectively improve animal welfare with CAP subsidies?

We found that the link between animal welfare rules and CAP payments could be improved if, in cases of non-compliance, Member States ensure better communication between the authorities responsible for official animal welfare inspections and those responsible for cross-compliance CAP controls. In this way, CAP payments could be reduced in a way that is proportionate to the seriousness of the irregularities found.

In addition, the Commission should question the Member States' proposal to give payments to farmers for going beyond minimum requirements in sectors where there is evidence that the basic rules are generally not being respected, as in the case of routine tail docking of pigs.

As regards monitoring and evaluation of the policy, we believe that better animal welfare indicators would help demonstrate the positive impact of post-2020 CAP payments. If animal welfare payments are well-promoted and have clear positive effects, it is likely that more Member States will include them in their rural development programmes.

Will the Court of Auditors plan to carry out further audits that are directly or indirectly related to animal welfare concerns?

The Court aims to assess whether and how the EU's policies address the key concerns of citizens and whether they are carried out effectively. Animal welfare is important to EU citizens, as shown by Eurobarometer survey results. That's why we're not stopping here, but have further topics in consideration for our work in the future. The topic is certainly strongly embedded in the Court's work programming under the overarching theme of the sustainable use of natural resources.

The recent ECA audit points to the implementation issue with regard to the derogation of stunning animals before slaughter and the lack of reporting requirements. What follow up process would you envisage to tackle this issue?

The Commission had identified this issue before the launch of the 2012–2015 animal welfare strategy. It's a difficult issue, because the legislation allows for different practices. We recommended in our report that the Commission carries out an evaluation of the strategy to identify which are the remaining risk areas and tackle those issues, including the use of the derogation, either through a new strategy, an action plan, or a review of the legislation.

What do you think about the EPs call for a new EU Animal Welfare Strategy for the coming five years and what would be the key objectives of such a strategy?

Our performance audit has found that some issues from the previous strategy have not yet been effectively tackled, notably relating to tail docking, transport, slaughter and official inspections. So we've recommended an evaluation of the strategy, and the Commission should decide on the next steps based on its results. From an auditor's point of view, a strategy document is valuable because it sets out the objectives of the policy, providing a basis for later evaluation and facilitating accountability. In its role as an independent audit institution, the Court does not participate in the process of setting strategic objectives, but we hope that our report will be a useful input for the discussions between the legislative authorities.

What added value do you see in having an EU animal welfare framework law in addition to already existing animal welfare related legislation?

This audit was not aimed at evaluating the current legal framework. It examined the achievement of the main objectives of the EU strategy for animal welfare, which focused on actions taken to improve compliance with the existing legislation and the links with the CAP. The Court thus had no specific recommendation as regards an animal welfare framework law, but this may be considered by the Commission when addressing our recommendations concerning the strategic framework.

How do you see EU animal welfare related policy making in the coming ten years and what advice would you give to have more impact in promoting these issues?

Currently there is a debate on the future of the CAP, the most important EU policy contributing to animal welfare. The new model, proposed by the Commission with fewer EU rules, means that the formulation of policy and specific interventions would increasingly depend on the choices made by Member States. As more flexibility will be granted to Member States, more work should be done to advocate for solutions beneficial to animal welfare to decision makers at the national level.

“Animal welfare is important to EU citizens, as shown by Eurobarometer survey results. That's why we're not stopping here, but have further topics in consideration for our work in the future.”

Janusz Wojciechowski, European Court of Auditors

Intergroup discusses next steps to improve Zoos Directive

In November the Commission finally published its evaluation of the Zoos Directive – the only EU legislation addressing the biological needs and welfare of wild animals in captivity – and January's Intergroup session saw the Commission present its follow-up actions to improve the implementation of the legislation.



The Commission's evaluation had concluded that the Directive's education and public awareness objectives have generally been achieved, but the conservation measures only partly. Too many zoos still keep animals under sub-standard conditions or gain licences despite practices contrary to the conservation objective, and inspections are often carried out by veterinary services with limited knowledge on wild animal husbandry. Too few penalties and closures of zoos that breach the Directive have taken place, and the Commission evaluation also found out that only up to 35% of threatened species are present in EU zoos. In addition, zoos only take a marginal role in the important task of rescuing, relocation and rehoming animals, for example in case of confiscation from illegal trade, mistreatment or closing of circuses.

The follow-up actions presented by the Commission at the Intergroup meeting included ensuring better coordination between local, regional and national authorities, as well as the development of an information-sharing platform and training modules for national management bodies. Translating the Directive's Good Practices Document into all Member States' languages is another plan in the pipeline – something Eurogroup for Animals actively advocated for during the evaluation process.

Eurogroup for Animals would also like to see harmonised standards to improve the wellbeing of animals in captivity. We also want to see the

development of a responsible management plan for zoo animal populations, and a protocol to assist competent authorities in phasing out unlicensed zoos. In addition, licenses should not be delivered to facilities with practices contrary to the conservation objective of the Directive, such as using animals in performances.

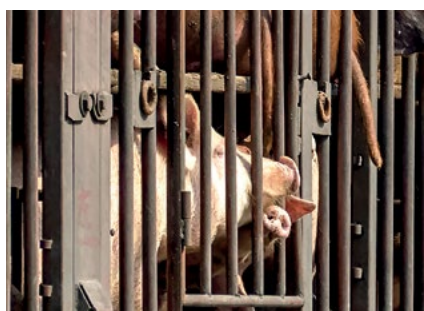


Andreas Erler,
Senior Political Adviser

IN EUROPE

#Act4FarmAnimals

EACH YEAR UP TO 9,000 PIGS DIE BEFORE LEAVING DENMARK



Dyrenes Beskyttelse has revealed that up to 9,000 pigs in Denmark die during export abroad, many dying in collection centres where they stop over or are reloaded before being sent out of the country.

The figure is testimony to the harsh conditions to which animals are exposed when they are loaded onto trucks and transported around Europe. Denmark is the EU's largest exporter of live piglets, with more than 14 million live pigs being transported for further fattening each year.

Dyrenes Beskyttelse presented the recent findings to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration, which confirmed the figures and recognized that farmers and hauliers should have been sanctioned in several cases.

But experts at Dyrenes Beskyttelse see this as proof that the Administration, as the responsible authority, lacks control over the area and is not meeting their duty to look after the animals.

#Act4FarmAnimals

MEAT SCANDAL IN POLAND



After Poland's commercial TVN24 news channel aired footage of downer cows (i.e. no longer able to stand) being transported, abused and then butchered at a slaughterhouse, the European Commission sent a team of inspectors to investigate.

Poland had already exported 2.7 tons of beef from such illegally slaughtered cattle to Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Lithuania, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden, the country's chief veterinarian admitted in January, and another 7 tons to domestic outlets. The offending facility has been closed, with Poland's Agriculture Minister calling the case an "isolated incident" and ordering inspections at slaughterhouses across the country.

The chief veterinarian also said that Polish authorities will spend €23.1 million to install CCTV cameras in slaughterhouses and employ more health inspectors, admitting that there should also be assessment by veterinarians to see if animals are unloaded in line with regulations. However, in this case the violations to the Transport Regulation (1/2005) started on farm, as animals that are unfit for transport should not be loaded onto trucks.

#Act4Wildlife

EXTINCT MAMMOTHS COULD BE GIVEN PROTECTED STATUS IN BID TO SAVE ELEPHANTS



The mammoth could gain protected status in an attempt to save the African elephant from the global ivory trade. The proposal by Israel would close a loophole that enables the trafficking of illegal elephant ivory under the guise of legal mammoth ivory, which is almost identical in appearance.

If approved, the protection of the mammoth under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) – the first time an extinct species has been listed as protected under the convention – could prove vital in saving its modern relatives.

The international trade in elephant ivory has been banned since 1990, but demand still leads to the deaths of 30,000 African elephants every year. There is currently no regulatory regime to track the international trade in mammoth ivory, but an Appendix II level of protection for the prehistoric mammoth, which has been extinct for 10,000 years, would subject it to strict monitoring.

The proposal needs the support of two-thirds of the parties at the CITES conference, which will take place in Sri Lanka in May.

#Act4Science

VIRTUAL DISSECTION APP NAMED APPLE'S TOP IPAD APP OF 2018



Froggipedia, an app that allows users to learn about dissection and the anatomy of frogs without using the animal itself, was named Apple's iPad App of 2018.

The dissection of animals in classrooms may require removing them from their natural habitat, transporting them long distances or keeping them in laboratory cages before they are killed for dissection. But Froggipedia, developed by Indian company Designmate, allows teachers to educate their class about the life cycle of a frog, as well as the complex structure of its anatomy, through the "dissection" of a virtual 3D frog.

Designmate's animal-free invention was also awarded a Compassionate Company Award from PETA.

#Act4Science

"ENORMOUS REDUCTION IN TEST ANIMALS CAN BE ACHIEVED"

Bioethicist and member of the Dutch National Committee on Animal Testing Henriëtte Bout stated in an interview with ScienceGuide that more cooperation and combining tests can have a huge impact on the numbers of animals being used for testing. Bout was involved in the State Secretary for Economic Affairs Martijn van Dam's 2016 objective to make the Netherlands world leader in animal-free innovations by 2025 and the subsequent phasing out strategy drawn up by the National Committee on Animal Testing Policy, but around half a million animals are still used annually in tests for science and safety research.

Besides concentrating on 'futuristic' solutions like organs on a chip, she says, researchers could share more tissues with each other, adopt smarter and more efficient experimental set-ups, and bundle more research in terms of data usage. But in many cases it's legislation – sometimes outdated or unnecessary – that is hampering alternatives to animal testing, and it's important that governments and researchers collaborate to make it happen.

#Act4Pets

ORCA: NEW DOG POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAMME FOR WESTERN BALKANS

In January ORCA launched a new model aimed at solving the problem of stray dogs in Serbia, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Kosovo.

ORCA categorised stray dogs into three categories: freely roaming owned dogs; unowned dogs who are cared for by the community; and feral dogs. They then invited local government and administration representatives, veterinarians, schools, media, local environmental and animal protection organisations, and health institutions to help develop a sustainable and result-oriented programme. Measures will include controlling the population of each of the categories, which requires prioritising different measures. For free roaming owned dogs, identification and registration is very important, but for other two categories, sterilisation is of much higher priority.

ORCA is also engaging in public campaigns to promote responsible ownership and enabling active participation of citizens in solving the problems of stray animals, as well as including dog welfare education in school programmes.

#Act4Pets


NEW EQUINE END OF LIFE SERVICE LAUNCHES IN SCOTLAND

The National Fallen Stock Company (NFSCo), which facilitates the removal of fallen farm animals and horses, is providing a new facility for equine services and information to help horse, pony and donkey owners with end of life decision-making.

The web-based Equine End of Life Service platform aims to provide information on euthanasia decision-making, as well as options for removal and disposal of the animal. It offers access to experienced, skilled and sympathetic collection professionals from a network of independent and fully licenced collectors with whom NFSCo works. These abide to the highest welfare standards, and biosecurity levels are strictly upheld at all times.

The website will be piloted in Scotland first, prior to national roll-out, and went live at the end of January at www.equine-endoflife.co.uk.



A close-up photograph of a black puppy's face, looking directly at the camera through the metal bars of a cage. The puppy's large, upright ears and dark, expressive eyes are prominent. Its front paws are visible, gripping the bottom bar of the cage. The background is a blurred, light-colored wall.

The illegal dog trade – worth more than 1 billion euros – is a booming industry all over Europe, with eight million puppies supplying the demand annually. It's fuelled by the online trade, where fraudulent sellers take advantage of the many web platforms available to get in touch with unsuspecting consumers.





JOINING FORCES

TO BULLETPROOF THE INTERNET AGAINST ILLEGAL PUPPY DEALERS

As well as affecting the welfare and health of the animals involved, online trading also impacts on the internal market through unfair competition and tax evasion, consumer rights and public health, not to mention high financial costs and the emotional suffering of the duped buyers.

Eurogroup for Animals' member organisation Vier Pfoten have addressed the issue by trying to better regulate online sales. Their *Thanks eBay!* campaign, which calls for eBay to require sellers to provide a form of identification before they can advertise animals for sale, effectively stops anonymous, untraceable sales.

The organisation has also designed a model solution of how a measure like this could, in turn, automatically link each dog in Europe with a digital register to provide full traceability. This would record all stakeholders involved in an individual dog's life via its own unique microchip number: it would show the breeder, the registering vet, the microchip

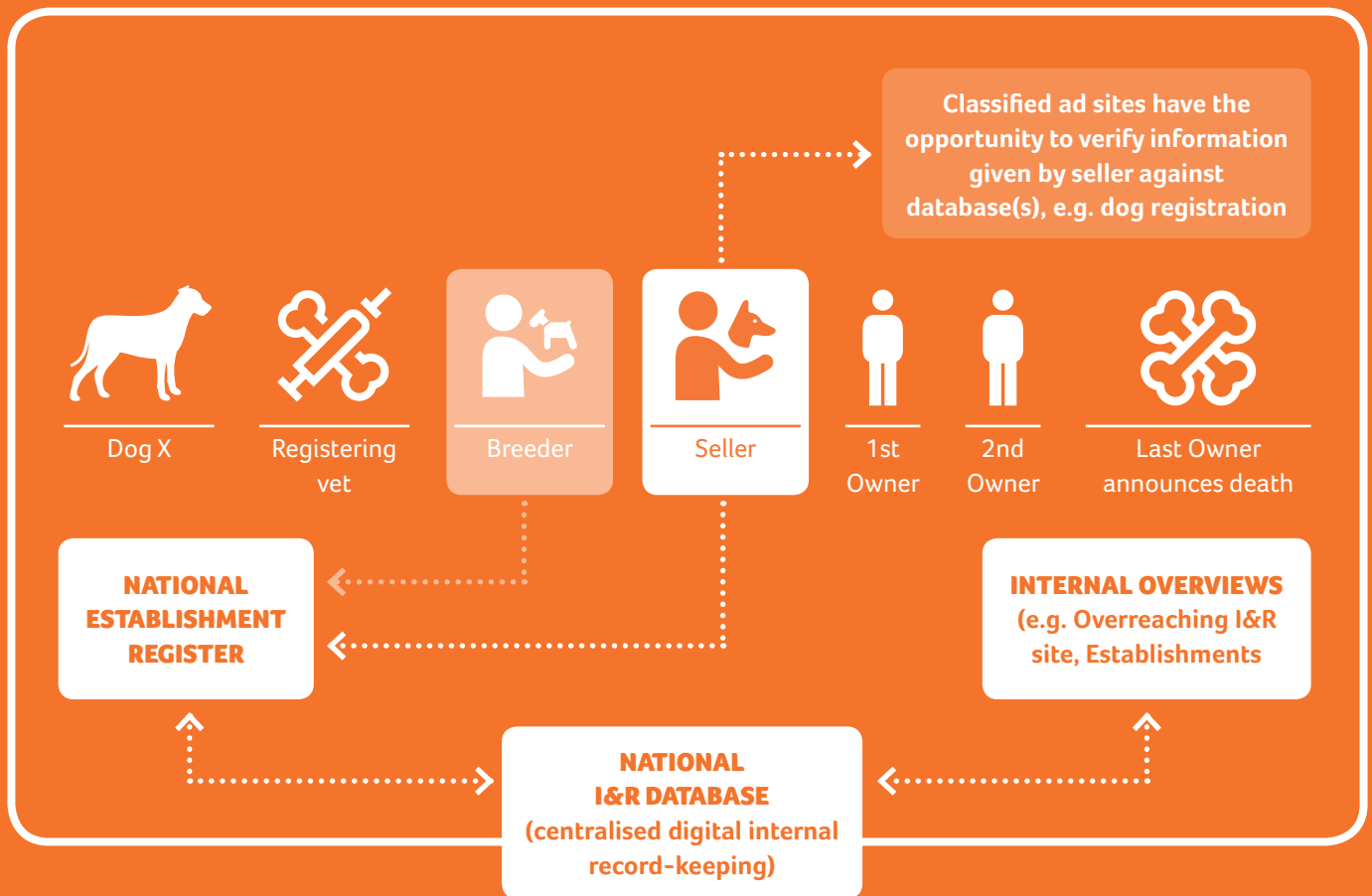
manufacturer, the seller or shelter, along with all owners and previous owners all the way through to the end of life.

Mandatory identification for sellers and the full traceability solution are exactly the kind of actions that Vier Pfoten and other members of Eurogroup for Animals would like to see integrated into national law and linked to new provisions in the EU Animal Health Law that will see the compulsory registration of all breeders and sellers of dogs and cats across the EU by 21 April 2021. It would be a way to bulletproof the internet; market access for illegal puppy dealers via classified ad sites would be effectively blocked.

A conference in November, "The Illegal Online Puppy Trade: towards a safer EU for animals and people online", saw Eurogroup for Animals and Four Paws International join forces with the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU to assess how to effectively tackle the online trade of dogs along with over 120 members, experts and stakeholders,

FULL LIFESPAN TRACEABILITY

With this process it will be possible to identify the origin of any animal, as well as all involved stakeholders (breeders, transponder numbers delivered, chipping vets, sellers, transporter, owners). These stakeholders can then be held accountable.



including Vier Pfoten and the EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Vytenis Andriukaitis. The conference came as the European Commission started to unfold its plans for specific rules under the Animal Health Law, which could restrict the space for the illegal trade to operate. The review of the European consumer legislation also creates opportunities to better regulate online platforms and protect consumers.

While Member States have an important role to play in tackling the trade, the issues involved with the illegal and legal online trade can't just be solved at national level. The opportunities at EU level were therefore outlined by the Austrian Presidency to all the Chief Veterinary Officers from across the Union in December, with a view to better informing Member States as they input to the formation of new rules in this area over the coming months.

“ The issue of the illegal puppy trade has been high on the political agenda at EU and national levels for several years now, and it is something that has been raised amongst the Chief Veterinary Officers on a number of occasions. It is important that we look at how further actions can be taken, both at European and national levels, to combat this illegal trade.”

Dr Ulrich Herzog, Austria's Chief Veterinary Officer

One such opportunity is the new sub-group of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare, which follows a joint declaration in 2017 by Belgium, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden calling on the European Commission for action to stop the illegal trade in pet animals across the EU, particularly the smuggling of dogs across Member States. By deciding cooperative actions on the identification and registration of pets, as well as on requirements for breeders and sellers, the sub-group is good news for dogs – and other pets – all over Europe.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

**THE CAGE-FREE
REVOLUTION IS
HERE TO STAY**



THE CAGE-FREE REVOLUTION IS HERE TO STAY: HOW TO ENSURE THE HIGHEST ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS FOR LAYING HENS

Elena Nalon, Farm Animals Veterinary Adviser

Thanks to relentless public campaigns by animal advocacy organisations and coalitions, major food manufacturers, restaurant chains and retailers have committed to phasing out caged eggs along their supply chains by 2025, mostly on a worldwide scale.

In the EU, apart from commitments from private players, we expect that the European Citizens' Initiative *End the Cage Age* will be pivotal in convincing the European Institutions that caged egg production is a thing of the past and must be phased out once and for all.

Laying hens must be enabled to live better lives, where they can enjoy the freedom to express normal behaviours, and whenever possible also have outdoor access to scratch, forage, and revel in the sun. Switching to cage-free systems with the potential to satisfy these requirements is not a given. Faced with rapid change, the European egg industry is under enormous pressure. As barn eggs will replace caged eggs as the cheapest product available on the market, it will be crucial that barn design is optimised for animal health and welfare. But even for free-range systems or those with access to the outdoors, there is some planning needed to make sure that the animals benefit from the resources available and stay healthy and happy.

Eurogroup for Animals firmly believes that the animal advocacy movement has a fundamental role to play in informing policy makers and commercial stakeholders on the science behind optimal laying hen welfare. On 11 December 2018, with our document "Optimising laying hen welfare in cage-free systems," we paved the way for a wide dissemination of good practices, and will use this publication in our lobbying and communication activities addressed to national decision makers, farmers, and other relevant industry stakeholders. The guidelines will also support campaigns aimed at obtaining legal bans on caged egg production in specific member states. One such campaign has already started, with a letter sent by the Dutch Dierenbescherming to their Agricultural Minister Carola Schouten calling for the abolition of so-called "colony cages" in the Netherlands.

Many more will follow, until all hens can stretch their wings.



RESEARCHERS SHOULD SHUN EXPERIMENTAL SERUM WITH SUSPECT AND POTENTIALLY CRUEL PRODUCTION PRACTISES

Luisa Ferreira Bastos, Animals in Science Programme Leader

Fetal bovine serum (FBS) is used to stimulate the growth of cells in *in vitro* cultures used for research, and also in the production of some pharmaceuticals. It is a by-product of bovine foetus blood, collected from the heart of the foetus after the mother has been slaughtered. It is known to pose many scientific and ethical concerns – but after the USA, Europe is the second biggest FBS market, with the entire global market said to be worth over 600 million euros per year.

There is little evidence that the market will be shrinking in the near future, even though some users are moving away from the use of FBS following recommendations promoting good practice in *in vitro* research by international organisations such as the OECD. Their guidelines discourage the use of the serum because of a lack of clarity about its composition, for example, which poses problems of reliability and reproducibility.

There's not only a lack of knowledge, but also contradictory information about the origins of the product. In 2004, van der Valk et al. stated that the blood for FBS is collected by syringe from the beating heart of the foetus. However, this claim is denied by FBS-related companies and associations, who claim that the blood is only collected after the foetus is dead.

This uncertainty not only interferes with our ability to understand the practices and welfare issues related to FBS, but creates fertile ground for misconduct and even fraud. Several cases have come to light over the years, the most recent being in July 2018, when the Australian Department of Agriculture confirmed it had seized 13,000 litres of FBS of South American origin that was smuggled into Australia and relabelled as Australian-sourced, and then sold on at significant profit. The investigation suggested that the scheme dated back more than a decade.

It is time the EU set concrete policies to guarantee the transparency of this market, while setting specific goals to replace the use of this product with others that are scientifically and ethically sound.



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**EUROGROUP
FOR
ANIMALS**



THE EU PARLIAMENT DEMANDS BOLD STEPS TO REDUCE AND REPLACE LIVE ANIMAL TRANSPORT

Francesca Porta, Farm Animals Programme Officer

In February we were delighted by the outcome of the vote on the Implementation report on live animal transport. After years of political pressure, the European Parliament finally called for the gradual replacement of live animal transport, a more regional model of livestock production, the forceful implementation of the EU Transport Regulation (Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005), and to forbid the transport of live animals to non-EU countries if compliance with the EU transport standards cannot be guaranteed.

The Plenary voting came after almost three years of intensive campaigning by animal advocates through Eurogroup for Animals' *#stopthetrucks* campaign. In 2016 Eurogroup for Animals decided to act upon the terrible

violations of the Transport Regulation from one side and the increased number of animals transported alive on the other. We exposed to citizens and the EU as well as National Governments the reality behind live transport and the inappropriateness of the EU legislation. The campaign was followed by targeted lobby actions that led to the EP approving a Report on the transport of live animals both across and outside the EU. The final report clearly calls for a better implementation of the current regulation as well as for its revision, with the aim to align it with the latest scientific knowledge.

However, the Parliamentary Report goes further by demanding a reduction of live transport by adopting alternatives strategies, such as the transport of meat and carcasses and a local/regional production chain. Ultimately this is what we want to see: animals slaughtered on farm or in the nearest plant so that their meat is transported and they are spared unnecessary suffering. Live export should be banned to prevent animals to be slaughtered with horrendous practices that are neither aligned with OIE standards nor with the EU value that animals are sentient beings.

GET TO KNOW US

PUTTING ANIMAL WELFARE AT THE HEART OF THE NEXT EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

Our brand new campaign, *VoteForAnimals2019* (<https://www.voteforanimals2019.eu/>), asks every European Parliamentary candidate to sign a pledge in support of animal-friendly initiatives during the next legislative term. With this, we can inform and motivate Europeans to vote in favour of animal-friendly candidates.

We want to ensure that strong support for animal welfare among newly elected European parliamentarians translates into a political priority for the next European Commission. With only 30 of the current 114 MEPs in the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals members running for re-election, we need to mobilise new candidates to commit to animal welfare.



[ANIMAL WELFARE PLEDGE](#) [SUPPORTIVE CANDIDATES](#) [CONTACT](#) [LANGUAGES](#) ▼

ARE YOU A CANDIDATE? TAKE THE ANIMAL WELFARE PLEDGE!

This is your chance to make a public commitment to animal welfare for the next EU parliamentary term.

[TAKE THE PLEDGE](#)

[ABOUT THE PLEDGE](#)

**EUROGROUP
FOR
ANIMALS**



CAMPAIGN GOALS

Next European Parliament acts on Animal Welfare

- 1 Including animal welfare in the manifestos of political parties
- 2 Mobilising candidates to commit to animal welfare and the next Intergroup
- 3 Informing European citizens about animal welfare commitment of candidates

“ If no one represents animals’ interests in the European Parliament, no law will take them into account”

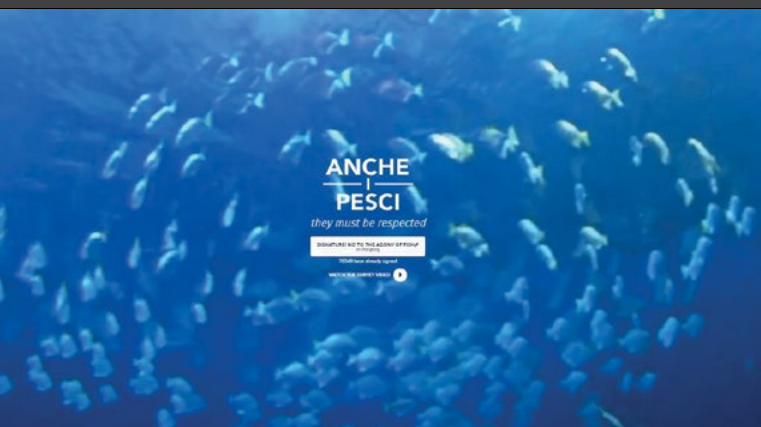
Finnish MEP Sirpa Pietikainen

OUR MEMBERS

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

PHOTOS AND VIDEOS THAT CHANGE LIVES

Investigations are a powerful tool to expose the cruel treatment of animals. By lifting the wall of secrecy, our members expose the appalling conditions used in industrial animal agriculture, helping to bring horrific animal abuse to an end. Our members' work doesn't just help consumers make more informed choices – it also forces all actors in the supply chain to make welfare improvements.



For the first time in Europe Essere Animali documented intensive fish farming practices. Their investigation with hidden cameras exposes fish locked in cages on Italian fish farms and left to suffocate to death.



Millions of chickens are slaughtered after only 35 days of life. L214's investigation shows appalling conditions on French farms where chickens spend their short lives suffering from fractures, respiratory problems and burns.



An investigation by Animal Australia documented the elusive dog meat trade in Bali. It showed dogs, including pets, captured off the streets to supply a booming trade, fueled in part by international tourists.



Released footage shows the routine suffering of primates at the Biomedical Primate Research Centre (BPRC) in the Netherlands before experiments even begin. Animal Defenders International calls for their use to be phased out, as adopted in a resolution at the European Parliament twelve years ago.



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.

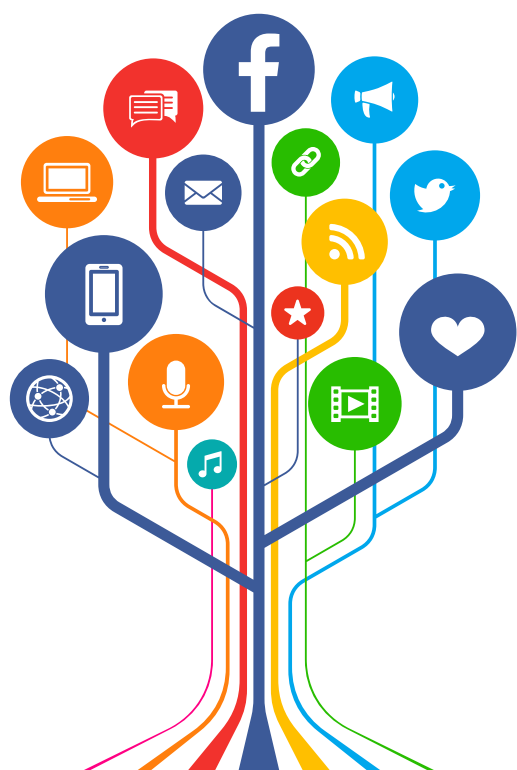


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