



**POST-EU  
ELECTION  
SPECIAL**

**THEME**

**WILL THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS  
BRING THE CHANGE ANIMALS NEED?**

**INTERVIEW**

Five newly elected MEPs  
share their priorities

**JOINING  
FORCES**

To ensure strong support for  
animal welfare in the new  
Parliamentary term

**CAMPAIGN  
4ANIMALS  
AWARD**

At our 2019 Annual Event



# 4

WILL THE  
EUROPEAN  
ELECTIONS BRING  
THE CHANGE  
ANIMALS NEED?



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FIVE NEWLY  
ELECTED MEPS  
share their  
priorities



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MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE:  
*End The Cage Age*  
ECI hits 1 million  
signatures



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# EDITORIAL

Over the past months, we at Eurogroup for Animals have been working hard to make sure the new political term will bring fresh opportunities to improve the lives of animals.

After a term with little or no action to introduce urgent new rules to protect animals or replace ones that are unenforceable or outdated, we are very hopeful that the 115 plus elected MEPs who signed the [VoteforAnimals2019](#) pledge will provide stronger support for animals in the European Parliament.

It was no surprise but very welcome to see that animal welfare remains to be a key priority for EU citizens as shown in the [final report on the EU's 'Future of Europe' consultation](#). To our delight, citizens say animal welfare is as important as freedom of expression and more important than combating corruption, with one out of seven mentioning it in an open question when asked about their priorities. Now we have to make sure that not only the European Parliament but also the new Commission will seriously listen to the voices of citizens.

In this magazine you will read everything about what we believe the European elections could hold for animals. You'll find some of our MEP champions talking about their priorities for animals and we'll be following their mandates closely – but whatever the mood of the Parliament, our own priorities for the coming term remain clear.

We will also zoom in on our *VoteforAnimals2019* campaign which attracted over 1000 signed pledges, and we saw more than one in ten of the pledge-takers elected. You can read more about this unprecedented success, and how our members helped us achieve it in this edition's 'Joining Forces' article.

Not only does the campaign stand as a testament to the strength of our members' collective campaigning efforts, but the results provide us with a very good basis to re-establish the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals, ensuring a strong voice for animals in the next political term. We hope, too, that the new Presidency of the Council of the European Union being in the hands of Finland will also mean solid support for animal welfare issues.



Reineke Hameleers  
Director, Eurogroup for Animals

One of the key priorities for the new Parliament and Commission will be to phase out the primitive use of cages for farmed animals. We are thrilled to share with you that the *End The Cage Age* European Citizens' Initiative hit the one million signature mark three months ahead of the deadline. We still need at least 300,000 more signatures to ensure the ECI is a success, so please continue spreading the word!

Our movement is ready and eager to grasp the mettle and capitalise on the new-look political landscape to make change for animals. What about you?

**EUROGROUP  
FOR ANIMALS**





## THEME

# WILL THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS BRING THE CHANGE ANIMALS NEED?

**The votes are counted, the results are in, and animal welfare is a priority. Around 115 of the elected MEPs have pledged to do their bit for animals during the coming five-year term. Four out of seven political groups have some kind of commitment to improving animal welfare.**

## EUROPEAN CITIZENS HAVE SPOKEN...

None of this should, however, come as a surprise. Europeans have consistently shown that they want to see more done at EU level to improve the welfare of animals. A special [Eurobarometer in 2016](#) revealed that over 90% of citizens believed the protection of farm animals to be important and wanted imported products to respect all animal welfare standards applied within the EU. At the same time, 86% considered that more should be done to safeguard animals used in commercial activities.

We subsequently saw similarly high levels of support for the prioritisation of animal welfare through the Common Agricultural Policy, and then this year, in the Commission's [final report on the Future of Europe](#). Citizens said animal welfare should be just as much a priority area for the Union's future as freedom of expression. In one open question, one in eight said that decisions taken at EU level for the welfare of animals would make them prouder to be European.

## ...BUT THE JUNCKER COMMISSION WASN'T LISTENING

However, their calls fell on deaf ears. The outgoing European Commission has remained opposed to replacing rules that are either unenforceable or outdated on the one hand, or introducing new rules for many species that remain unprotected on the other. This was confirmed by the [European Court of Auditors' landmark report in 2018](#), the first to assess the Commission's action in ensuring animal welfare, which substantiated the animal advocacy movement's repeated claims on the shortcomings of EU animal welfare legislation and their enforcement mechanisms.

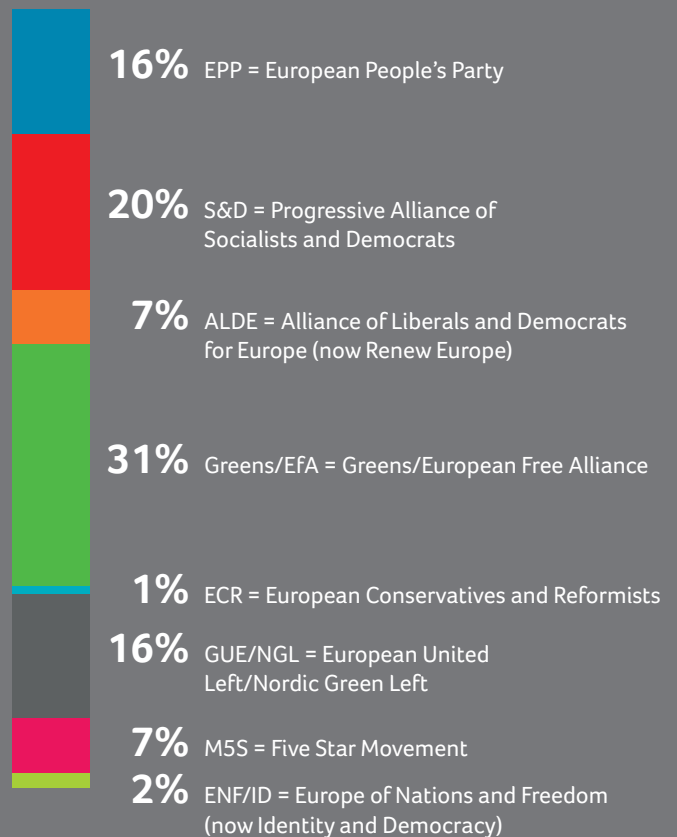
## WILL THE NEXT COMMISSION BE MORE PROACTIVE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE?

Sadly, however, civil society cannot change EU law, and neither can MEPs alone; but what MEPs can do is elect a new European Commission that will act for animals instead of dragging its heels.

Through our *VoteForAnimals2019* campaign (pages 10-13), Eurogroup for Animals gave Europe's citizens way to encourage this to happen. Candidates could pledge to ensure that animals' interests were properly represented,



## Distribution of the elected *VoteForAnimals2019* pledge signatories across political groups



and voters could then choose to check which candidates had pledged before casting their vote. They had many to choose from; over 1,000 candidates signed up to this commitment, and no fewer than 115 of these are now taking up their seats in Strasbourg.

When it takes office on 1st November, the new Commission doesn't have to work miracles. It simply has to agree to four basic commitments:

- First, **to propose a horizontal framework law on animal welfare**. This should ensure that all EU rules honour the key principle of animal sentience as enshrined in the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. It should also allow for bespoke rules that can easily be introduced and updated to protect all animals, whether on the farm, in the wild, in our homes or in science labs. Indeed, it should provide for new welfare standards for dairy cows, fish and broiler chickens, for the proper regulation of intra-Union live transport and a ban on live exports; an EU-wide positive list to end the trade in exotic animals, a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses and new rules to restrict the cross border trade in overbred dogs and cats. Crucially, it should also be used to end the cage age by banning caged farming systems.

- Second, to **introduce new technical rules to improve animal welfare immediately**, based on existing powers the Commission already holds. Such rules could introduce measures to assess compliance with existing legislation.

- Third, **to show a clear willingness to promote Europe's animal welfare standards abroad**. Such actions should exploit all available avenues, whether through development policy, trade agreements or international *fora* such as the World Trade Organisation and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

- Lastly, to work with MEPs and Member States **to deliver a Common Agricultural Policy and, potentially, a new Common Fisheries Policy, that incentivise higher-welfare production** and place sustainability at the heart of Europe's food security.

Animal welfare ranks alongside other great causes such as better environmental protection or the fulfilment of the sustainable development goals. Indeed, more often than not, animal welfare dovetails with these, each reinforcing the other. This new European Parliament and the Commission that will follow have the opportunity to deliver the change citizens want and animals need.





# FIVE NEWLY ELECTED MEPS SHARE THEIR PRIORITIES

**Sirpa Pietikäinen is a Finnish MEP from the National Coalition Party (EPP in the EP) and the former President of the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals (the Intergroup).**

An immediate priority is getting new MEPs involved in the Intergroup, because working together and joining our voices is the only way to help the cause. We need to get as many MEPS as possible together, and work together as effectively as possible.

If I had to choose a first priority to achieve for animals during the term, though, I would choose the EU animal welfare framework law because it covers all the species. I can't choose otherwise, because that would mean putting cats before dogs or pigs before hens, and I just can't do it. But if it's a case of choosing a priority based on the sheer number of animals whose suffering could be relieved, it would be higher welfare standards for broiler chickens.

As far as live animal transport is concerned, even though we didn't achieve what we wanted in the last term, there was very strong support in the Parliament. It was stronger than I expected, actually, given the Agri Committee's stance. The people have really made themselves heard about this and Parliament agrees, but more still needs to be done. We

should send all the reported cases of cruelty and suffering that are being collected and documented by animal protection organisations – all the pictures and videos – and ask the Commission to be accountable for each and every case.

**Anja Hazekamp is a Dutch MEP and member of the Party for the Animals (GUE/NGL in the EP) and also former Vice-President of the Intergroup.**

I'm of course very happy to have been re-elected, especially at a time when real differences that could be positive to animals have shown in the candidacies and in the results. I'm really happy that there were over 2 million votes for eleven animal parties. This demonstrates real change.

All of Eurogroup for Animals' seven suggested priorities are extremely necessary, but it's very difficult to choose because they are all *equally* important. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has had billions of victims, so that's an important one as far as sheer numbers are concerned. But my first priority is to keep animal transport high on the agenda. By 2024 I hope we will have stopped this. I think we are very close – we have to make sure all our reports are being seen and documented.

The last Commission established the Animal Welfare Platform, but the danger of that is that all the problems raised by the EP are now moved to the Platform, and we never see results. We need a lot more pressure both inside and outside the Parliament to get things moving.

**Martin Buschmann is a new German MEP and member of the Tierschutzpartei (Animal Protection Party). He has joined the GUE/NGL Group.**

I'm delighted to be the second elected member of Germany's animal protection party and delighted to be part of your movement. My top priority would be live animal transport, both within and outside Europe. The issue of animals in science is also very close to my heart. Actually, the reason I went into politics is because Hamburg has one of the biggest facilities for laboratory animals, and wanting to do something about that.

I think Eurogroup for Animals and its members can be instrumental in letting citizens know that there are MEPs who stand up for animal welfare, and that they can make a difference by electing those ones.

**Martin Hojsik (RE) is a new Slovak MEP of the Renew Europe/Progressive Slovakia party. He was formerly Chief Programme Officer at Four Paws International.**

What is my priority for animals? It's a very tough question. MEP Pavel Poc was making progress in the illegal trade in companion animals, and I'd like to carry on that battle. The

fight around the CAP is also interesting, with its strong links with other areas such as climate and nutrition.

Regarding the actions of the new Commission: if the new Commissioner – whoever he or she will be – is clever and listening to the people, he or she will make some mention of acting for animals. The trick then, though, will be to transfer those words into action instead of empty promises. It remains to be seen what actual, concrete actions can be put on the new Commission's agenda.

I've been very impressed by the amazing momentum of *End the Cage Age*. I hope the initiative will succeed, but it should not be limited to farm animals. If we accept that animals do not belong to cages, we could really see an end to fur farming. I hope that Slovakia will soon join the ranks of countries that have banned fur farming – if not now, then after the national elections.

**Klaus Buchner is a university professor, physicist, and an MEP for the Ökologisch-Demokratische Partei, Germany. He is a member of the Greens-European Free Alliance group in the European Parliament.**

As MEPS, our direct influence is small, but indirectly we can do much more. In the last term I was very proud to be a member of the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals, and to support our many actions and campaigns.

As well as actively taking part in *End the Cage Age* (Klaus collected 2,500 signatures), my party and I achieved great success with our referendum on biodiversity, for which we managed to collect 1.7m signatures. The referendum is now being implemented by the Bavarian state government and we have moved on to the European level. Here, we have started an European Citizens Initiative for species protection. We're also working on intensive farming and the exotic animal trade, with live transport being another important topic. Personally, I would propose another referendum in Bavaria to tackle these issues.

It has been suggested that the new Commissioner could be held more accountable if animal welfare is added to the job title. I am of course committed to only electing someone who makes a promise to act for animals, but really, I do not trust any such promises!

#### VoteForAnimals2019 Pledge #22

"In a desire to join forces with other animal welfare-friendly MEPs, I commit upon my election to join the European Parliament's Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals"



## The reinstatement of the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals

At the beginning of each new legislative term, MEPs have the option to form Intergroups, which are informal cross-party fora on specific policy issues, frequently involving civil society. During the last term, the Parliament had 28 officially registered Intergroups. The Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals is the second oldest, and has been constantly reinstated for each political term since 1983. During the last mandate it was among the best attended, and had a good track record of success.



Thanks to Eurogroup for Animals' campaign *VoteForAnimals2019* we know that 74 of the newly elected MEPs have already committed to join the new incarnation of this Intergroup, so it is likely to kick off with a bigger group of animal welfare-friendly MEPs than in previous terms. On a less positive note, however, Brexit threatens to have a detrimental effect on the Intergroup, as many of the most supportive MEPs were usually from the UK. They could soon be out of the equation, leaving the Intergroup orphaned of some of its most vivid spokespersons.

Starting in June, Eurogroup for Animals – as the secretariat – has been coordinating the Intergroup's reinstatement. As well as reaching out to all newly elected MEPs who pledged to join, we'll also contact those MEPs who didn't sign our pledge but are nevertheless committed to the animal welfare cause.

In October the Intergroup, in collaboration with Eurogroup for Animals, will organise an event and exhibition, "The Next Political Term: What's on the Horizon for Animals?", at the European Parliament. It will showcase Eurogroup for Animals' activities while inviting new MEPs to join the Animal Welfare Intergroup.



**Andreas Erler,**  
Senior Political Adviser

We hope to welcome many of you on 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> October during the exhibition, and to have a drink at the occasion of its official launch on the afternoon of 8<sup>th</sup> October. Please save the date!

## ANIMAL NEWS

# IN EUROPE

### #FurFreeEU

#### NORWAY AND IRELAND BAN FUR FARMING

On June 13<sup>th</sup> the Norwegian Parliament passed the Fur Farming Prohibition Act, banning the practise in Norway from February 2025 onwards. Less than two weeks later, on 25<sup>th</sup> June, Ireland's Cabinet agreed to the phased dis-establishment of fur farming in the country.

Both moves represented victories for Dyreveralliansen, Eurogroup for Animals' Norwegian member organisation, which has been working to end fur farming for two decades, and the ISPCA, our Irish member, which recently ran the successful campaign [Fur Free Ireland](#).

Norwegian fur farming supplies 1% of the world market and comprises 167 fur farms, many fewer than ten years ago, when there were more than 500. Almost all Norwegian fur is exported to Asian markets, and over 300 retailers in Norway have committed to no longer sell real fur.

Ireland's phased ban will affect the very small number of existing operators in the country – just 3 farms in total, located in counties Donegal, Laois and Kerry, which produce approximately 110,000 pelts per annum.

#### VoteForAnimals2019 Pledge #17:

"Support the adoption of national bans on fur farming and oppose initiatives which provide EU endorsement to the fur industry"



### #Act4Pets

#### BARCELONA INSTRUCTS WEB PORTALS TO WITHDRAW ADVERTISEMENTS SELLING COMPANION ANIMALS

Barcelona City Council has demanded the withdrawal of advertisements selling animals on the popular web portals Milanuncios and Vibbo.

The council said that such adverts "do not respect the rules in force for selling animals" and put animal welfare at risk. They identified that this way of selling pets does not guarantee that puppies and kittens are not taken from their mothers before 8 weeks old. The sterilization of the animals is also not guaranteed, nor is their delivery to the new owner in conditions that guarantee their safety, hygiene and comfort, as well as their perfect state of health.

Anyone who leaves an advert selling a pet up on the sites, which are portals for Spanish classified ads similar to Craigslist, could be fined up to €600,000 and banned from doing business in Spain for two years. The council also requires the companies Milanuncios and Vibbo to help identify the people responsible.

#### VoteForAnimals2019 Pledge #19:

"Promote the introduction of compatible systems of identification and registration of dogs and cats at the EU level in order to ensure more efficient traceability of those animals"



### #Act4LabAnimals

#### NEW ALGORITHM ALLOWS FASTER, ANIMAL-FREE CHEMICAL TOXICITY TESTING

Researchers at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, and their collaborators have developed a cheap, high-speed algorithm to test the toxicity of chemicals without using animals.

One million animals are estimated to be used per year in the EU for regulatory testing – in other words, testing that is required by law and that determines the safety of chemicals, new materials or any other substances that come into contact with humans, animals or the environment. Besides its ethical concerns, animal testing is too costly and time consuming for regulatory testing, and is not always reliable.

In April, a study published in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives* presented a first-of-its-kind algorithm that compares chemical fragments from tested compounds with those of untested compounds, and uses multiple mathematical methods to evaluate their similarities and differences in order to predict an untested chemical's toxicity.

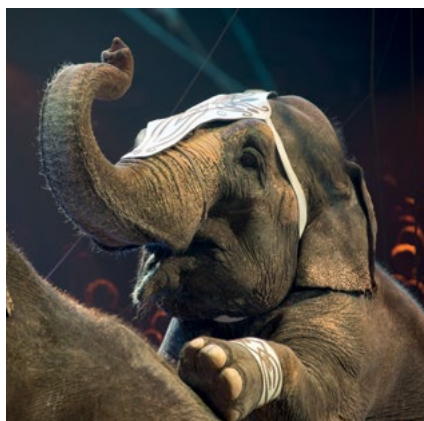
The algorithm has only just been announced to the scientific community, but the researchers expect that efforts such as theirs could "significantly reduce the number of animals used".

#### VoteForAnimals2019 Pledge #20:

"Promote the adoption of a comprehensive and concrete EU strategy with milestones to phase out the use of animals in research, testing and education"







## #Act4Wildlife

### WILD ANIMAL CIRCUSES BANNED IN ENGLAND

The British government has banned the use of wild animals in travelling circuses in England.

Coming into effect in January 2020, the Wild Animals in Circuses (No. 2) Bill comes after more than 20 years of investigations and campaigns by animal protection organisations. This legislation brings England into line with a long and increasing list of countries which have banned this practice.

Given the constant travel and their temporary nature, circuses cannot provide animals with adequate facilities to keep them physically or psychologically healthy. There have also been repeated exposés of physical abuse behind the scenes.

Eurogroup for Animals would like to see an overarching EU ban on the use of wild animals in circuses and, importantly, national bans on the use of cetaceans in entertainment, as only four Member States have adopted a ban on dolphinariums.

#### VoteForAnimals2019 Pledge #15:

"Adopt an EU ban on the use of wild animals in circuses"



## #Act4FarmAnimals

### SOME PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS THE SUSPENSION OF LIVE TRANSPORT IN HIGH TEMPERATURES

Despite a warning from the EU Commission to Member States not to export animals during hot weather, evidence collected by NGOs at the main EU exit points demonstrates that animals are being systematically loaded into trucks and vessels regardless.

In June's heatwave, though, some EU countries were starting to take action. Hungary decided to suspend the export of ruminants to Turkey in high temperatures. The Czech Republic announced it would not dispatch consignments of farm animals for more than 600 km for three days starting from 26th June.

On the same day, the Irish Department of Agriculture suspended the transport of ruminants by road into or through continental Europe for the rest of the week. A sailing of three sheep lorries due to go out on 28<sup>th</sup> June was cancelled by UK authorities due to the hot weather in France, and some restrictions were also in place in Germany and Austria.

However, Eurogroup for Animals and its members want to see a total suspension of long distance transportation during summer, not just for a few days, and collectively have sent letters to this effect to their governments in 15 countries. Our ultimate aim is to replace live transport by meat and carcasses.

#### VoteForAnimals2019 Pledge #3:

"Endeavour to minimise live animal transport by replacing the transport of live animals for slaughter with the trade of meat and carcasses"



## #Act4Wildlife

### EUROPEAN UNION COURT OF JUSTICE (EUCJ) QUESTIONS WOLF HUNTING PERMITS GRANTED IN FINLAND

In May the Court of Justice of the European Union delivered its opinion on the permits granted by the Finnish Wildlife Agency to kill wolves to prevent their poaching, as well as harm to hunting dogs.

In Finland, the wolf is a strictly protected species, but derogations under the Habitats Directive mean hunting permits can be granted under certain very exceptional conditions. The EUCJ takes a common sense, precautionary approach in saying that if – after examining the best scientific data available – significant doubt remains as to whether or not a derogation will have a negative impact on conservation status, then permits should not be granted. It considers that Finland has failed to demonstrate that hunting reduces poaching to such an extent that it has a favourable impact on the conservation of wolves.

The opinion also states that the maximum quota pre-established in Finland, which allows the killing of nearly 15% of the wolf population, is arguably detrimental to the conservation of the species. Importantly, it says that when hunting permits are being granted, the decision should also take into account the impact on the wolf population of other illegal or accidental deaths caused by humans, such as poaching or road accidents.

#### VoteForAnimals2019 Pledge #16:

"Promote coexistence with and non-lethal management of wildlife in the EU"







Eurogroup for Animals' *VoteForAnimals2019* campaign had a double agenda: to have the words 'animal welfare' included in the European political groups' manifestos, and to cement a support base within the new European Parliament. The election results revealed that at least 115 of the elected MEPs were ones who had signed our animal welfare pledge.





for Animals Award  
Hazelkamp  
Your proactive engagement in  
animal welfare during the term

EU for Animals Award  
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## JOINING FORCES TO ENSURE STRONG SUPPORT FOR ANIMAL WELFARE IN THE NEW PARLIAMENTARY TERM

**In 2014, Eurogroup for Animals ran its first *VoteforAnimals* campaign, asking European parliamentary candidates to commit themselves to ensuring better lives for animals, and encouraging citizens to support those same candidates. In 2019, we did it again – and this second edition of the campaign attracted five times the commitments from candidate MEPs than in 2014, with 1000 in total. The elections revealed that more than 10% of these had been elected.**

Candidate MEPs could put their name to all or some of 22 pledges, ranging from the general to the specific. All pledges were composed by the working groups of Eurogroup for Animals, which comprise experts and representatives of our 66 member organisations. They made sure the pledges were relevant, in that they addressed some of the most pressing issues, but are also achievable within one political term.

The website – [www.voteforanimals2019.eu](http://www.voteforanimals2019.eu) – was made available in all EU languages, thanks to the collaboration with our member organisations, who also worked hard to make sure their national candidates found the site and took the pledge. They did this by getting as close as possible to citizens and talking directly to them, not only via social media – with more than 500 posts on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, and 60 articles published on our members' websites – but also with physical debates.

### HOW MANY PEOPLE SIGNED HOW MANY PLEDGES?

**743** MEPS signed 100% (22) of the pledges;

**148** signed 21,

**39** signed 20,

**53** signed between 19 and 10,

**17** signed fewer than 10

Our Portuguese member, Animais de Rua, organised just such a discussion on [6th May in Lisbon](#), where bullfighting and the transport of live animals were particular concerns for all the participants. A similar debate organised by our Polish member Otwarte Klatki took place [in Poznan on 22nd May](#), with industrial farming and hunting policy among the particular topics of discussion.

This concerted effort shows our network's campaigning power at its best, with members taking this European campaign and turning it into many national ones. The



## THE PLEDGES THAT GOT THE MOST YESES FROM CANDIDATES



“Promote and support policy developments for the introduction of better animal welfare standards”  
(only 11 out of 1000 candidates said no)

“Ensure that imports of animal-based products from third countries fully respect EU animal welfare standards”  
(14 said no)

“Promote the welfare and responsible care of equines supported by robust identification and traceability”  
(15 said no)

results speak for themselves; the *VoteforAnimals2019* website had more than 102,000 unique website visitors in the three months between its launch and the elections.

Interestingly, users per country does not correlate to the number of pledges taken or the number of pledge-takers elected. Denmark achieved the most website visitors overall, closely followed by France, which had the highest number of candidates take the pledge. It was Germany, however, that saw the most signatories elected, despite a relatively low number of website visitors.

Signatories came from 25 Member States, with only three countries with no animal pledge candidates: Hungary, Cyprus and Latvia. The campaign was being watched from outside the EU by about 5% of website users, with three times as many visitors from the US than the UK.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

After the elections and the end of the *VoteforAnimals2019* campaign, we're now moving into a new phase, *ActforAnimals*, where we will hold MEPs who have signed the pledges accountable whenever a relevant vote or other key moment happens on any specific topic.

The campaign was also key to identifying animal welfare-friendly new MEPs so that we can approach them and invite them to join the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals (page 7). You can watch the [Intergroup meetings via livestreaming](#), and please also give support on social media to the Intergroup/Eurogroup for Animals event and exhibition, “The Next Political Term: What's on the Horizon for Animals?”, on 7th-10th October.

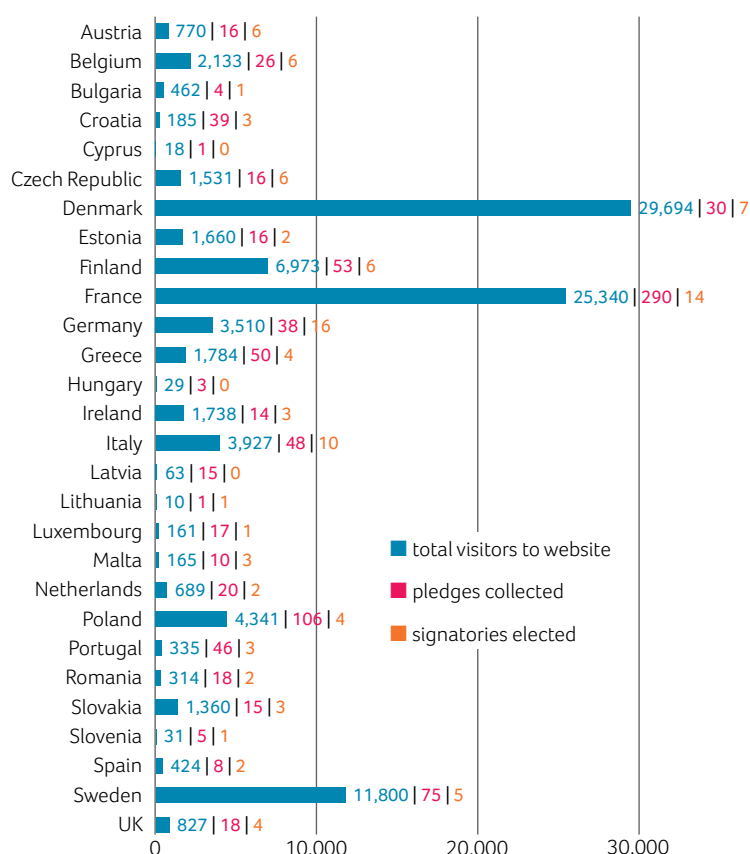
“ L214, as a member of the group *AnimalPolitique*, called on candidates to sign the *VoteforAnimals2019* pledge. This turned out to be a very successful: more than 270 French candidates – and eight heads of electoral lists – took the pledge. Our association has also published a full analysis based on assessment of political parties, programme lists and public acts, and standpoints of candidates on its *Politique & Animaux* website.”

Brigitte Gothière, L214

“ Many of Denmark's candidates were well aware that their stand on animal welfare could decide whether or not they got a seat in the Parliament, so the *VoteforAnimals2019* pledge gained momentum quickly. Whenever we promoted politicians that had signed, even more decided to sign. We treated all the candidates who contacted us with questions and comments as future partners, and supported them with answers and information. All this meant that we gained support from almost all parties and in the end a majority of the elected MEPs.”

Britta Riis, Chief Executive of Dyrenes Beskyttelse Denmark and President of Eurogroup for Animals

## Total visitors to website, pledges collected and signatories elected





**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

**“THERE IS NO BIGGER  
VIOLATION OF ANIMAL  
SENTIENCE THAN THE CAGE”**





## END THE CAGE AGE ECI REACHES 1 MILLION SIGNATURES

Elena Nalon, Senior Veterinary Adviser, Farm Animals

Just as we were celebrating the election of around one in 10 of the MEP candidates who signed our *VoteForAnimals2019* pledge, we learnt that the *End The Cage Age* European Citizens' Initiative had reached one million signatures.

We cannot but feel positive when seeing these results: this is the biggest ever political push for farm animal welfare, with more than 170 NGOs in 26 countries mobilising to encourage signatures. Now more than ever it is clear that there exists a profound gap between citizens' expectations on animal welfare and the conservative policies that we have seen in the last political term, with the excuse of the better regulation framework. If anything, the results of the elections show a profound desire for change for animals and the environment.

There is no better symbol of animal liberation than the abolition of cages from livestock farming once and for all. There may be many other shortcomings in the industry – mutilations, unnatural rearing conditions, overcrowding, painful 'production diseases', rough handling, mother-offspring separation, long-distance transport, inhumane slaughter, to name just a few – but the cage, which is to all effects equivalent to imprisoning, is probably the most powerful reminder of the inhumanity of the animal agriculture model.

A caged animal is, by definition, deprived of even basic freedom. A caged rabbit cannot hop; a caged hen cannot stretch her wings; a caged sow cannot turn around or interact with her piglets. There is no bigger violation of animal sentience, a principle enshrined in the European Constitution, but so far a dead letter to all practical effects. Now is the time for European politicians to drop the mask of competitiveness, 'better regulation', a 'level playing-field', and all the buzzwords that have been so far repeated like mantras as excuses for inaction.

Over one million citizens are officially asking the European Commission to move to another era, one in which we finally get rid of the most hated symbols of farm animal oppression – gestation stalls, farrowing crates, 'enriched' cages, hutches, wire cages. A cage is a cage, and it's high time that it became a thing of the past.

### VoteForAnimals2019 Pledge #8:

"Promote a swift phase-out of the use of all cages for the rearing and keeping of farmed animals."



## GUIDE TO GOOD ANIMAL WELFARE PRACTICE FOR THE KEEPING, CARE, TRAINING AND USE OF HORSES

Iwona Mertin, Companion Animals Programme Leader

The own-initiative equines subgroup of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare – for which Eurogroup for Animals and World Horse Welfare share the secretariat, with The Donkey Sanctuary as member – have nearly finished their 'Guide to good animal welfare practice for the keeping, care, training and use of horses'. The publication aims to improve horses' lives by providing recommendations for good animal welfare practice where animals fall outside current rules and where there is no specific EU legislation.

This succinct guide is for owners, keepers and carers of horses, and is designed to cover all uses and keeping of these animals. It covers biological characteristics and behaviour, including abnormal behaviour; accommodation; care, including inspection, diseases, vet care and vaccinations; handling and training; doping; equipment; breeding; and many more. It also offers a tool to assess body condition, as well as addressing end-of-life considerations.

A similar guide for donkeys will also be finalised in the coming months, together with detailed factsheets.

These guides are a result of successful cooperation of member states and civil society. Spreading the word is now the next objective, as this is key to promoting the use of the guide among the EU Member States and stakeholders. It is essential to make sure information reaches those who need it most, hopefully with the help of the European Commission and their broad outreach.



### VoteForAnimals2019 Pledge #18:

"Promote the welfare and responsible care of equines supported by robust identification and traceability."





## A NEW REGIONAL PLATFORM TO DISCUSS COEXISTENCE WITH LARGE CARNIVORES IN FINLAND

Ilaria di Silvestre, Wildlife Programme Leader

Wolves, bears, lynxes and wolverines are charismatic species, but also top predators. Their conservation in highly populated continents like Europe requires integration with human activities, and can be a source of conflict. A lack of natural prey, habitat loss and unprotected livestock contribute to attacks from large carnivores on domestic animals in several Member States.

In Finland conflicts are particularly severe. A wolf hunting trial programme in 2015–2016 contributed to the disappearance of one third of the country's wolf population. This highlights the importance of engaging local stakeholders to help identify measures that are tailored to local circumstances to prevent and manage conflicts.

For this reason, in 2017 the European Parliament agreed to finance a pilot project contracted by the European Commission to establish three regional platforms on people and large carnivores in areas with ongoing conflicts focused on the presence of large carnivores – Romania, Italy and Spain. During the past two years, together with our member organisation the Wolf Action Group, we have worked with MEPs to urge the European Commission to create a regional platform in Finland too.

Now a second pilot project has been approved, and in May the European Commission agreed to create a regional platform shared between Finland and Sweden. The project is supported by a team including facilitators, social scientists and communicators. The presence of external facilitators will help the involved parties in Finland, including the Wolf Action Group, in discussing together the problems and identifying non-lethal solutions, which we hope will inspire surrounding countries to follow identified good practices.

### VoteForAnimals2019 Pledge #13:

"Support the introduction of new rules to safeguard the welfare of fish particularly at the time of slaughter and during transport"



## PARLIAMENTARY TERM CLOSES WITH A BOOST TO FISH WELFARE

Douglas Waley, Fish Welfare Programme Leader

In March, for the first time ever, fish welfare was the subject of a debate during the Plenary session of the European Parliament. Eurogroup for Animals supported the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals' fish working group in developing the question asked by 39 MEPs from across the spectrum of political groups: why, in spite of calls from industry and Parliament to do more, has the Commission not taken any action to improve fish welfare?

The question followed a 2017 study by the Commission itself which identified shortcomings in the transport of common carp and concluded that in slaughter, only a minority of the EU's aquaculture sectors achieve the international standards of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). Other studies – many of them by our Member Organisations, including OneKind, Essere Animali, and Compassion in World Farming – have uncovered mass mortality, sea lice infestations and 'endemic' disease on fish farms.

All of the political groups brought different aspects of fish welfare to the debate, which picked up on flaws in the Commission's fish welfare proposals, gave the evidence base for further action, and called for regulations to guarantee and harmonise fish welfare standards across Europe. As a result, Commissioner Neven Mimica affirmed that animal welfare has to be integrated into the long-term development of EU aquaculture.

Putting the topic at the top of the agenda during the intensive final plenaries of the Parliament gave weight and visibility to the fish pledge in Eurogroup for Animals' Vote for Animals2019 election campaign, and helped us reach the post-election position of having 115 MEPs in the new Parliament that have committed to pursuing new rules to safeguard the welfare of fish.

Eurogroup for Animals will go on to work with these MEPs, and others, to improve welfare through the existing work programme of the Parliament, as well as to pursue new rules. Immediate opportunities to reinforce fish welfare include hearings prior to the appointment of the relevant new Commissioners, the fisheries control regulation, and recruiting more supportive MEPs as they join the Committees of the Parliament and Intergroups.

### VoteForAnimals2019 Pledge #16:

"Promote coexistence with and non-lethal management of wildlife in the EU"





## GET TO KNOW US

# EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS 2019 CAMPAIGN4ANIMALS AWARD

One of the highlights of our Annual Event is the Campaign4Animals Award. The nominated campaigns allow our members to showcase the results of their work on animal welfare during the year. It also offers them an opportunity to learn from each others' most successful national or international campaigns. This year we had a record number of nominations: nine in total.



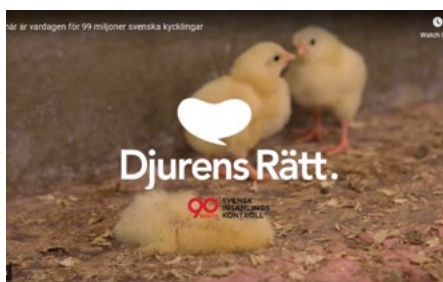
AAP Animal Advocacy & Protection / Anda / Faada: 'InfoCircos', banning wild animals in circuses in Spain



Bont Voor Dieren: 'Bontblocker', a campaign to discourage the sale of fur



Compassion in World Farming (CiWF): 'inSOStenibile', against the building of new mega farms in the Po Valley



Djurens Rätt: '99 miljoner', a campaign to halt the surging number of chickens killed for meat in Sweden



Essere Animali: 'Anche i pesci', an investigation into the suffering of fish in aquaculture systems



Suomen Eläinsuojelu (SEY): 'Animal Crime Unit', the first ever police unit for animal-related crimes in Finland



The Wolf Action Group: 'Keeping the Wolf from the Door', an investigation into exceptional killing permits for wolves



World Animal Protection (NL): 'Dit PIG ik niet!' campaign encouraging banks to adopt more stringent animal welfare policies



Voiceless: 'EU Kangaroo Ban' against the 800,000 adult kangaroos and 100,000 joeys killed every year to supply EU markets



### WINNER OF THE EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS CAMPAIGN AWARD 2019:

Essere Animali for 'Anche i pesci', the first European investigation into the suffering of fish in aquaculture systems



## OUR MEMBERS

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### FUTURE OF EUROPE – HOW OUR NETWORK INFLUENCED THE CONSULTATION

The 'Future of Europe' consultation was launched in 2018 by the Commission to support the debate on the direction the EU should take. The animal welfare network used this opportunity to demonstrate citizens' concern in regard to animals and their will to see the EU take more action.

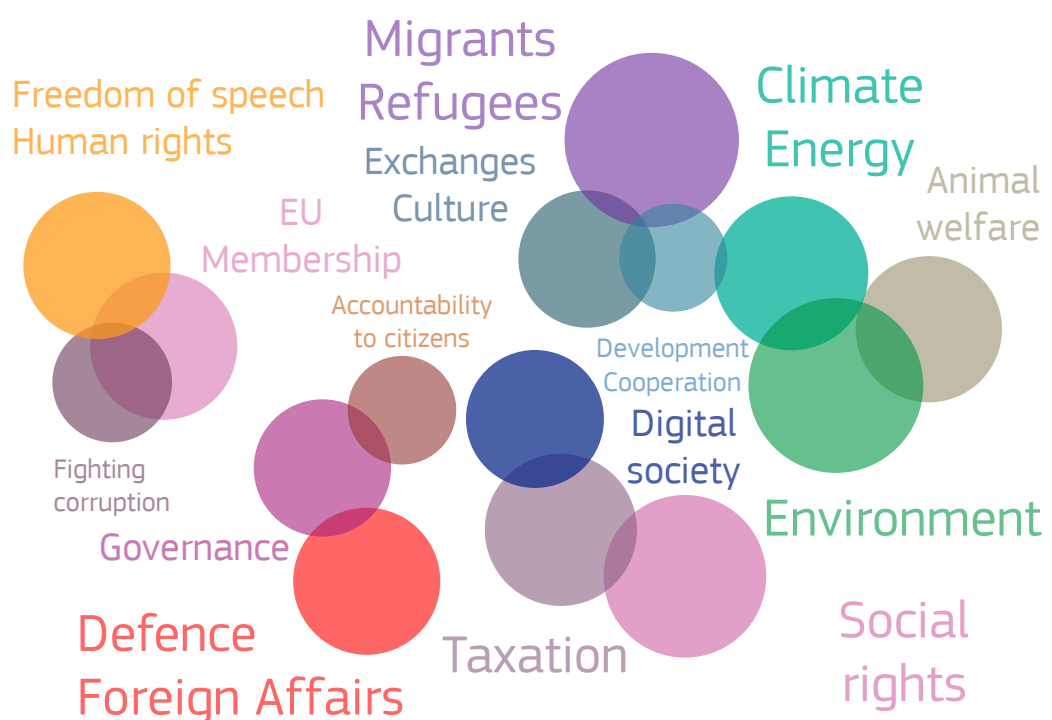
The consultation results, published in April this year, included animal welfare as one of the priorities identified by citizens, scoring higher than fighting corruption or digital policy.

Animal welfare scored especially high in France and Belgium thanks to the efforts of Welfarm and GAIA, who used various channels of communication to encourage their supporters to take part.



**Answers to the open-ended question 'What decisions taken at European Union level would make you prouder of belonging to the Union?'**

The size of the circles is proportional to their frequency and their relative locations reflect thematic proximities.







## 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.



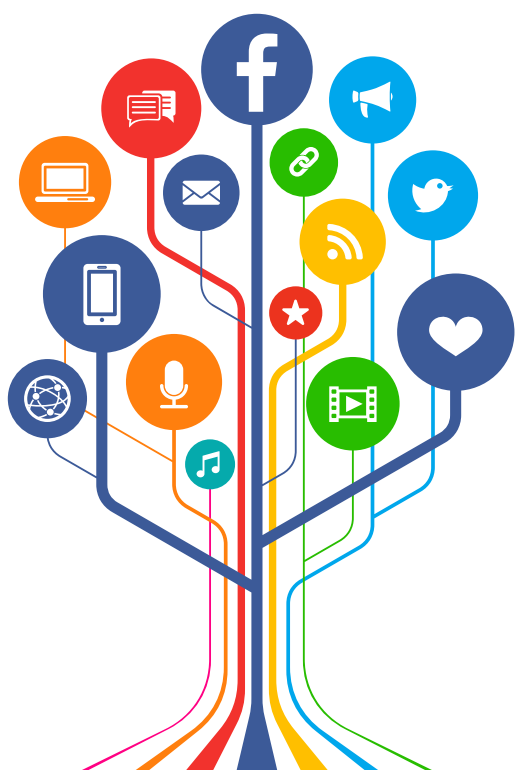
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