

**THEME**

**HOW ARE MEMBER STATES REGULATING  
ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS AND PROMOTING  
ANIMAL-FREE APPROACHES?**

**INTERVIEW**

Susanna Ahlström, Senior  
Specialist at the Finnish  
Ministry of Agriculture and  
Forestry

**JOINING  
FORCES**

The world agrees to end the  
international trade in live, wild-  
caught elephants

**MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE**

Follow our work on animal  
welfare

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HOW ARE  
MEMBER STATES  
REGULATING  
ANIMAL  
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AND PROMOTING  
ANIMAL-FREE  
APPROACHES?



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SUSANNA  
AHLSTRÖM,  
Senior Specialist at  
the Finnish Ministry  
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MAKING A  
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Follow our work on  
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# EDITORIAL

I often ponder the question, why don't certain politicians practise what they preach? Why is change so difficult, and why are decision makers often more prone to keeping the status quo rather than driving the change tens of millions of citizens want to see?

A case in point is our research on the implementation of the EU Directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. As you will read in this edition of the Magazine, the Directive promised to ultimately replace the use of animals in testing, research and education. Nevertheless, the number of animals used in science is still extremely high, and Member States are not investing seriously in the uptake of alternatives.

The theory of change always intrigues me, and one key principle is that you should start with identifying your long term goal and then plan backwards, rather than the other way around. I believe this is exactly the problem with animal experimentation. Despite the boldly formulated long term goal, we are missing a detailed strategy on how to get there.

Apart from such a strategy, freshly arrived MEPs and new Commissioners have lots of opportunities to implement their knowledge of theory of change in this legislature. The sixth European Citizens' Initiative, End the Cage Age, managed to collect over 1.6 million signatures – a fantastic result. Now the challenge will be to deliver on this democratic promise to EU citizens.

Indeed, there is hope on the horizon, as the majority of the Member States indicated in a survey organised by the Finnish Presidency. They want to see better legislation for animals and an improvement in the dire situation we're in now. It's unbelievable that the last piece of animal welfare-related legislation on the killing of animals was introduced more than nine years ago!

We trust the new Commission will take Member States' views seriously and deliver an ambitious programme of change for the new term.

*Reineke Hameleers*  
*Director, Eurogroup for Animals*



Reineke Hameleers  
Director, Eurogroup for Animals

**EUROGROUP**  
**FOR ANIMALS**




 A white rabbit with large ears is sitting on a black perforated metal floor inside a wire cage. The cage has vertical metal bars in the background.
 

## THEME

# HOW ARE MEMBER STATES REGULATING ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS AND PROMOTING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES?

**Science still relies heavily on animal experimentation, despite the moral and scientific challenges it raises. In 2019, Eurogroup for Animals commissioned a research study to identify the measures Member States are taking to promote alternatives to the use of animals in science.**

The EU Directive from 2010 on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes determines that animals cannot be used if there are alternative methods and if there is no strong scientific justification for their use. However, nine years after its adoption, the majority of the Member States are still struggling to achieve an acceptable transposition of the EU Directive to their national legislation.

One of the Directive's requirements is that scientific project proposals that involve the use of animals undergo evaluation by competent authorities set up by the Member States before they are allowed to begin. Eurogroup for Animals' 2019 study aimed to identify how 14 Member States – Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain and Sweden – are evaluating and authorising these projects, and the measures they are taking to promote alternative methods. It also investigated what funding exists for both non-animal and animal-based research.

## HOW ARE MEMBER STATES EVALUATING THE NEED FOR THE USE OF ANIMALS IN SCIENCE?

Evaluating scientific project proposals that involve the use of animals requires a balanced set of expertise to guarantee an appropriate ethical evaluation and application of the 3Rs.

Most countries in the study provide some guidance on the types of expertise that should be represented in animal-based project evaluation bodies. However, only half disclose who the evaluators are, their expertise and background.

**Poland** is one example of a country that ensures a balanced project evaluation committee, requiring them to have representatives with backgrounds in ethics, patients' rights and animal protection.

All countries seem to guarantee that projects are evaluated by veterinary experts. **Belgium, Finland, the Netherlands** and **Spain** require a background in ethics. **Denmark** requires an animal protection background, and **Hungary** from patients' rights.

About half of the countries provide some guidance to help project evaluators throughout the evaluation process. However, we only found guidelines covering alternatives to the use of animals in science in **Ireland**.

**Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands** and **Poland** are transparent about the grounds on which projects are being rejected. In these countries, a small number of projects have been rejected based on potentially unnecessary animal use.

## HOW ARE THEY ENSURING THAT ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES ARE PROMOTED?

Promoting alternative approaches needs a multilevel perspective, since animal experimentation is still a strongly institutionalized practice. Setting up networks and playing

an active role in the dissemination of alternative approaches are just two elements needed to move towards non-animal science.

Public funding remains the biggest source of investment in life sciences research. Even though every Member State in the study funds research projects that involve alternative methods, there is no information that says how much is invested in animal-based or non-animal science.

Moreover, we found only four countries that have at least one funding body dedicated to non-animal research:

**Finland, France, the Netherlands and Sweden.** These do not compete with the overall funding dedicated to life sciences, since their contribution accounts for less than 0.02%. **Denmark, Finland, Germany and Sweden** give regular research prizes to scientists investing in alternative methods.

Only half of the countries seem to have a national centre dedicated to the development and promotion of alternative approaches. The commitment at an international level is higher; all but two have at least one laboratory in the European Union Network of Laboratories for the Validation of Alternative Methods, which carries out validation studies on the reliability and relevance of alternative methods.

All but three countries have some knowledge sharing platform for alternative methods, but few have a dedicated national website where information on alternative approaches is centralised. Only **Denmark** has a comprehensive national website for dissemination of 3R knowledge. **Sweden, Finland and Denmark** provide almost all the information in English as well as in their national languages.

We only found training actions on alternative methods in half of the countries.

## CONCLUSIONS

It is clear that the implementation of the Directive is still not having an effect in reducing the number of animals used and wasted in the name of science. Investments in non-animal approaches are scarce and lacking concrete strategies to replace, reduce and refine the use of animals in target areas of research and education. Furthermore, very few countries have a comprehensive investment in alternative approaches that include national and international dissemination actions and networks.

Overall, Member States are still not transparent about the way they evaluate animal-based project applications, nor about the funding they are providing to non-animal and animal-based projects.

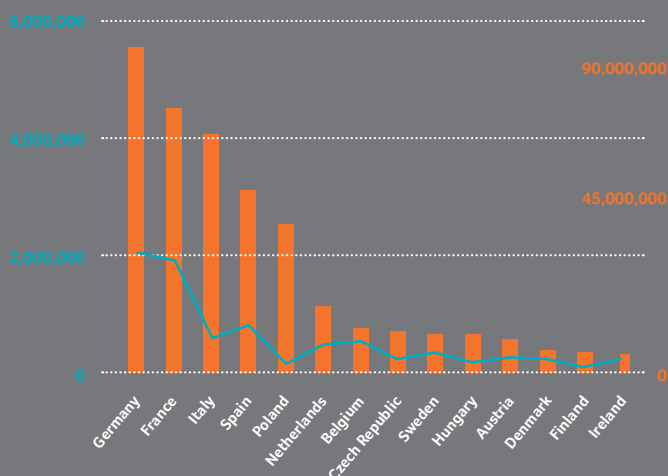
Since 2005, the number of animals used in the EU has been steady at around 12 million per year. If the scientific flaws of animal experimentation, its low translation rates and the moral values of Europeans alone were taken into consideration, it would be illogical for the numbers to remain as high as they are. Eurogroup for Animals sees it as imperative that Member States and their competent bodies take a serious stand to ensure that independent and balanced committees assess the need for the use of animals.

We also need multilevel strategies to challenge and change strongly rooted practices. In the last few years, we have witnessed tremendous developments in non-animal science, but throwing scarce investments into these new approach methodologies is not enough. The [recent commitment of the USA Environmental Protection Agency](#) to phase out the use of vertebrates in safety testing with concrete milestones is inspiring, and many are already behind us in saying that [the EU should follow suit](#).

The European Commission needs to develop its own strategy to phase out the use of animals. For this, it needs to establish concrete targets and investments, and support continuous education and adaptation of infrastructures in a constructive dialogue with all parties.

Eurogroup for Animals is holding an event with the Finnish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in December, “Strategies for Innovation in Life Sciences”, to provide an open forum for discussion on how the EU and its member states can – in this new term – promote innovation through concrete targets and steps to transition towards non-animal science.

Number of animals used in research, education and testing per country (blue line). Ordered by largest to smallest country by number of inhabitants (orange bars; population data from [ec.europa.eu/eurostat](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat))







## SUSANNA AHLSTRÖM

SENIOR SPECIALIST AT THE FINNISH MINISTRY  
OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

*The Finnish Presidency of the Council of the European Union started in July, with the advancement of animal welfare included in their Presidency Programme. Their promise to 'foster animal welfare' means that their Presidency is particularly welcomed by Eurogroup for Animals and other animal advocates. We took the opportunity at our "What's on the Horizon for Animals" event in October (page 17) to quiz Susanna Ahlström about Finland's plans.*

**Why is animal welfare important for the Finnish presidency?**

I think Finland has had a long tradition of taking care of animal welfare. It's an attitude that we have in the country generally. Maybe it's because of the way our agriculture developed during the last hundred years, as well. We never really had a tradition of debeaking poultry or docking the tails of pigs. So agriculture, and the keeping of farm animals, developed from small-sized farms. Definitely today they're a lot bigger, but that has happened during a rather short period, and maybe that's why we didn't have these practises. We have the idea that we do not want them to be afraid. We tend to respect the integrity of animals, to a certain degree at least.

**You recently carried out a survey of the Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs), and will be drawing together the findings as a Council Conclusion in December. Based on the results, what do you think are the main priorities in the next five years?**

One clear priority is to do something about long distance transport of live animals, because that's been a persistent issue in the media, as well as a serious problem for the animals. There are, of course, different ways to deal with

it, but to prepare legislation takes time. It takes years to be finalised. On the other hand, if you work together with Member States to refine and renew guidelines regarding long distance transport, that can be much faster in terms of effectiveness.

**Eurogroup for Animals is holding an event with the Finnish presidency in December on the promotion of alternatives to the use of animals in education, research and testing. Finland has been promoting this through various actions, and we're looking forward to working together to showcase how an ambitious and innovative approach to life sciences can reduce the need for animal testing. Can you tell us a bit more about that?**

Finland has worked hard to raise money to look into alternative methods, and to do scientific experiments that don't use animals. This is something we would really like to promote further during our Presidency. We can share with you some of our plans for that at the event in December.

**Do you know if there are any plans for the work on animal welfare to be taken forward by the Croatians when their turn comes?**

Well we haven't discussed it specifically, so I can't say for sure. But there are some specific areas that have risen through our survey of the CVOs that are very important to solve as quickly as possible. For example, internet sales and the commercial trade of cats and dogs was an issue that 79% of respondents mentioned. They'd like to see EU-level regulations for traded cats and dogs included in animal welfare legislation, or at least to have legislation that will cover health and identification. Also of great interest to the CVOs was live transport, as I mentioned earlier. But it is clear that to some degree we will not be able to completely solve these issues during this period.

**From our perspective, we know that the new European Parliament is very keen to see animal welfare as a priority, and thanks partly to yourselves there's an emerging consensus in the Member States. We can also see some positivity from the Commission. How optimistic are you about securing positive change for animals in the next five years?**

I am optimistic. Because, for example, with long distance transport there has been clear progress, particularly in terms of the reduction of transport during the hot summer months. I think there has been a substantial reduction in that in the past two years, so thinking from a five-year perspective, that's very positive. Also we have the activity that I mentioned with CVOs in trying to work together and find solutions to control long distance transport. There's also been progress within the Member States on internet sales of dogs and cats. That's also an area in which I would imagine that something will happen in a positive way.

## THE FINNISH PRESIDENCY'S SURVEY OF CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICERS – IN FIGURES

Is existing animal welfare legislation comprehensive enough?

YES NO

12% 88%

Is there a need for additional welfare legislation where no detailed legislation exists?

YES NO

87% 13%

Should animal welfare have a more central role in EU and Third Country trade regulation?

YES NO

91%

9%

Should there be an Animal Welfare Framework Law?

YES NO

63%

37%

What are the main reasons for lack of compliance in your country?

Unclear regulations (14 out of 20)



Attitude of operators/farmers (11 out of 20)



Insufficient knowledge among operators/farmers (14 out of 20)



Which pieces of legislation need to be amended? (out of 20 respondents)



Transport regulation



Pig Directive

Should the EU create a common animal welfare labelling scheme?

YES NO

19 4



Andreas Erler,  
Senior Political Adviser



## THE INTERGROUP'S FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE NEW LEGISLATIVE TERM

On 19<sup>th</sup> September the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals convened for the first time in the new parliamentary term. France and Poland were the best represented countries, with, unusually, only one British MEP in attendance – a sad indication of the impact Brexit is having.

In her presentation of the Intergroup's strategy for the new legislative term, Reineke Hamelers, as representative of its Secretariat, stressed that no new legislation was adopted under the last Commission. "Despite the European Parliament coming up with numerous reports and resolutions, they were ignored, leaving many animals without specific rules ensuring their welfare," she said. She mentioned the General Farming Directive, the Pig Directive, the Broilers Directive and the Transport Regulation to illustrate how outdated current EU legislation is, and stressed on shortcomings regarding animals in science, wildlife and puppy trade.

The meeting also offered the opportunity to showcase the Intergroup's new-look website, which has a fresh new design just in time for the start of the new legislative term. See what you think at <https://www.animalwelfareintergroup.eu>.

## THE INTERGROUP'S NEW BOARD

### President:

Anja Hazekamp (GUE/NGL, NL)

### Honorary President:

Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP, FI)

### Reappointed Vice-Presidents:

Jadwiga Wiśniewska (ECR, PL)

Petras Auštrevičius (RE, LT)

Pascal Durand (RE, FR)

Fredrick Federley (RE, SE)

### New Vice-Presidents:

Klaus Buchner (Greens/EFA, DE)

Martin Buschmann (GUE/NGL, DE)

Eleonora Evi (NA, IT)

Niels Fuglsang (S&D, DK)

Francisco Guerreiro (Greens/EFA, PT)

Martin Hojsik (Renew, SK)

Tilly Metz (Greens/EFA, LU)

Maria Noichl (S&D, DE)

Emil Radev (EPP, BG)

# IN EUROPE



### #Act4Fish

#### REPORT REVEALS HIGH MORTALITY OF HATCHED SALMON IN NORWAY

Suspiciously high mortality levels of Norwegian juvenile salmon were found in a report produced by Dyreveralliansen and the Norwegian Veterinary Institute in September. Since Norway is the world's biggest producer of Atlantic salmon, this sheds an important light on the lack of appropriate welfare measures for Norway's largest, yet most vulnerable livestock group – salmon hatcheries.

Part of the larger project Småfiskvel (Smallfishwell), the research aimed to compare mortality rates with operating conditions in hatcheries and identify particular success factors in the maintenance of welfare standards. Some of the topics covered were production form, bio safety, water quality and causes of mortality. The highest mortality rates were

found in the juveniles in the life stage when fish are moved from a protected environment that allows them to hide in "astroturf" to open tanks with constant light exposure. The high mortality rate may indicate that the transition is a major challenge for the small fish weighing less than 3 grams.

The data revealed consistent mortality rate differences among production sites as well as constantly high mortality rates over several years in some sites, indicating that the cause can't be rooted in biology but in production methods and routines. In addition, the unexpectedly poor level of reporting was found among producers. From this it is clear that the lack of consistent and detailed reporting leads to critical welfare challenges.

Dyreveralliansen is committed to introduce regular reports that will allow for better monitoring and welfare improvements throughout the production process.

### #Act4LabAnimals

#### PROTECTION OF LABORATORY ANIMALS IS A FOCUS FOR FIVE COUNTRIES IN COMMISSION'S OCTOBER INFRINGEMENTS

In its monthly infringement decisions, the European Commission pursues legal action against Member States for failing to comply with their obligations under EU law. In October they called on Denmark, Finland, Austria and Latvia to correctly enact measures on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes.

The countries' shortcomings include insufficient requirements for personnel caring for the animals, incorrect rules on the administrative procedures for project applications, incorrect enactment of rules relating to the information to be recorded for the animals used, and incorrect requirements on the accommodation and care of the animals. In Austria's case, transposition of the Directive is not completely satisfactory.

The Member States concerned have two months to reply. Otherwise, the Commission may decide to send a reasoned opinion – the next stage in infringement.

In the same batch of infringement decisions, the Commission also sent a reasoned opinion to Slovenia for its failure to adequately transpose multiple provisions of the Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes into national legislation, saying that many national provisions are unclear, incomplete or ambiguous.





## #FurFreeEU

### SLOVAKIA BANS FUR FARMING

The Slovak National Council passed a law in October banning fur production in the country – making it the 14th European nation to do so.

The ban follows a campaign by Slovak animal welfare group Humánný Pokrok, which gathered more than 76,000 signatures.

The ban will go into effect in 2021, with existing fur farms due to be phased out by 2025. One mink farm – holding an estimated 5000 minks – and eight rabbit fur farms are located in Slovakia.

## #Act4FarmAnimals

### KRAFT HEINZ SIGNS THE EUROPEAN CHICKEN COMMITMENT

In September Kraft Heinz Europe – which owns brands such as Weight Watchers in France and Heinz Soup in the UK – signed up to the European Chicken Commitment.

“By 2026, we will require 100% of the fresh, frozen, and processed chicken in our European supply chain to meet the standards of the European Chicken Commitment,” said a spokesperson, adding that signing the commitment forms part of the company’s objective to establish a sustainable supply chain and responsible farm-to-market ingredient and material sourcing policies.

The European Chicken Commitment initiative involves a large coalition of European animal protection groups. It aims to address the inhumane conditions that predominate in the intensive, large-scale production of chicken meat.

Signing commits companies to complying with all EU animal welfare laws and regulations, to invest in environmental enrichment including perches, pecking objects and natural daylight, and to uphold standards such as a maximum stocking density of 30kg/m<sup>2</sup> or less.

## #Act4Wildlife

### THE MAIN HIGHLIGHTS FROM CITES COP18

As well as the elephant success described on pages 12-13, the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in Geneva in August achieved important progresses for the protection of other internationally traded species.

- Guidance and associated decisions for the identification of “appropriate and acceptable destinations” for the most endangered species, including elephants and rhino, were adopted.
- The trade in giraffes was regulated for the first time.
- Asian otters, whose numbers in the wild have fallen by at least 30% in the past 30 years, are now excluded from any commercial trade.
- CITES added a range of turtles, lizards and geckos to its lists of animals that are endangered, threatened or that should be protected in terms of trade.
- The Parties established the CITES Big Cat Task Force with a mandate to improve enforcement, tackle illegal trade and promote collaboration on conservation.

## #Act4Pets

### STUDY SHOWS THAT CATS SHOW SIMILAR SOCIAL TRAITS TO DOGS AND HUMANS

During the autumn, several major media outlets reported on some ‘news’ that every cat lover has known forever – that cats do actually like people. In fact, they share social traits once attributed to dogs and humans alone.

The coverage focused on a new study from Oregon State University. The researchers conducted a test on cats that has previously been used on primates and dogs. The subject spends two minutes in an unfamiliar room with their caregiver, followed by a two-minute alone phase and then a two-minute reunion phase.

Cats were classified into attachment styles using the same criteria used for human infants and dogs, and the study showed that cats that were more attached to their owners showed reduced stress upon the caretaker’s return than those that were less attached.

Perhaps this means that the familiar trope that cats are aloof, stand-offish and only care about where their next meal is coming from will soon become a thing of the past.





**Young elephants – some of them just babies – are separated from their family members for export to zoos or circuses, resulting in injuries, psychological trauma and sometimes death for the captured animals, and leaving the remaining family groups fragmented and disrupted. In August the World Wildlife Conference took an historic step towards ending this cruel trade.**







## JOINING FORCES

# THE WORLD AGREES TO END THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN LIVE, WILD-CAUGHT ELEPHANTS



**For decades, young wild African elephants from certain southern African countries have been removed from their home herds for export to zoos or circuses. Between 1990 and 2015, at least 1,774 live wild African elephants were captured and exported internationally, mostly to non-African States, destined for a life in captivity. Since 2012, China has imported more than 100 elephants from Zimbabwe.**

Elephants are intelligent, highly social animals with a complex system of communication, and the negative impact on individuals, families and social groups of the capture of wild elephants is well-documented. No captivity can provide elephants with the space they need, or with the kind of social stimulation and complexity that they experience in the wild.

## THE ISSUE IS RAISED IN CITES

At last things look set to change. On 27<sup>th</sup> August 2019, at the eighteenth Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES CoP18) in Geneva, Parties voted to ban this cruel capture and trade of wild elephants.

It nearly didn't happen, though. A preliminary vote on the ban took place at the beginning of the conference on 18<sup>th</sup> August, with countries voting to limit the trade of live wild elephants only to conservation projects in their natural habitat. But the European Union and the United States both spoke against it.

The support for the ban, in fact, largely came from the African States and experts. The African Elephant Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission has stated that it “does not endorse the removal of African elephants from the wild for any captive use”, believing there to be “no direct benefit for [their] *in situ* conservation”. In addition, at the Addis Ababa African Elephant Coalition Summit in June 2018, 30 African States confirmed that the only acceptable destinations for live wild African elephants are *in situ* conservation programmes within their natural habitat.

## A PUBLIC OUTCRY

To ensure that the ban would make it across the finish line, 42 celebrities – including Brigitte Bardot, Pamela Anderson, Ricky Gervais, Judi Bench and Peter Egan – spoke out in support of the proposal. Eurogroup for Animals and a coalition of NGOs also signed a letter calling on EU decision makers Karmenu Vella (Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries) and Krista Mikkonen





“

*Footage of wild-caught baby elephants awaiting export from Zimbabwe shows calves being beaten and kicked during capture. Elephants who survive the long journey have been observed living in dark, barren cells in the holding facilities and zoos, in stark and heartbreaking contrast to the vast wilderness in which they naturally roam with family groups and larger clans... It would be obscene for the EU to endorse snatching wild baby elephants and condemning these beautiful leviathans to a life of captive misery.”*

From the [celebrity letter](#) to the Commission and the EU Council of Ministers, with 42 signatories:

Alan Carr, Alesha Dixon, Bella Lack, Bill Bailey, Bonnie Wright, Brigitte Bardot, Bryan Adams, Dan Richardson, Deborah Meaden, Dougie Poynter, Evanna Lynch, Gordon Buchanan, Jenny Seagrove, Joanna Lumley, John Challis, Judi Dench, Kate Humble, Lauren St John, Leona Lewis, Lily Travers, Brendan Courtney, Marc Abrahams, Mollie King, Nicky Campbell, Pamela Anderson, Paul O’Grady, Peter Egan, Ricky Gervais, Robert Lindsay, Rula Lenska, Simon Pegg, Susie Dent, Thandie Newton, Virginia McKenna, David Mills, Thais Blume, Carlos Bardem, Nathalie Poza, Nuria Gago, Lluvia Rojo, Pedro Alonso, Elena Anaya.

(President of the EU Environment Council) to support the ending of the live trade of young and baby elephants. Many of Eurogroup for Animals’ member organisations also wrote in record time to their governments asking to change the EU position.

## A CHANGE OF HEART

By 27<sup>th</sup> August, when the final vote and plenary session took place, the European Union had changed its position. It proposed an amended text to clarify that trade on live wild elephants outside Africa should be allowed only in exceptional or emergency circumstances where it will significantly contribute to the conservation of the species. The new amended text proposed by the EU was then voted and adopted, with the support of 75% of the voting countries.

Eurogroup for Animals welcomes the end of the cruel, unnecessary capture and export of wild African elephants from certain southern African countries to zoos and other captive facilities, and congratulates the EU and its Member States for their constructive work to find a solution to the suffering of the elephants and to respect the will of the majority of African States. We trust that this will be taken into consideration in future EU and CITES decisions.

## BUT IS IT ENOUGH?

By adopting this ban, countries all around the world have shown that animal welfare legitimately justifies severely restricting trade, and that it can take precedence over economic interests.

However, about 33 elephants captured in Zimbabwe for export to zoos and entertainment facilities in China and Pakistan have been held for nine months in Hwange National Park. While the CoP18 Resolution does not technically come into effect until the end of November, Zimbabwe is trying to circumvent its impact by quickly exporting the elephants before this time, and then ignoring the clear intention of the CITES Parties. As a result, NGOs are still joining forces to urge the Government of Zimbabwe to abandon any plans to export these animals to captive facilities.

In addition, some loopholes remain, such as countries being able to export wild-caught elephants if they can claim the transfers to captive facilities are ‘primarily non-commercial’.

The CoP18 decision sets a strong precedent: we now need to work to close the remaining loopholes as we go forward.

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

# **FOLLOW OUR WORK ON ANIMAL WELFARE**







## **EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS STEPS UP EFFORTS TO STREAMLINE HUMANE MANAGEMENT METHODS FOR IAS**

Ilaria di Silvestre, Wildlife Programme Leader

The EC will soon start a new EU-funded project involving Eurogroup for Animals in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the European Alliance of Rescue Centres and Sanctuaries, the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, Newcastle University and the Animal & Plant Health Agency research institute.

In line with the strategic approach identified by the EC Regulation on invasive alien species, the project will map and streamline successful ethical and publicly acceptable methods to manage Invasive Alien Species (IAS) – species whose introduction or spread has been found to threaten or adversely impact upon biodiversity and related ecosystem services.

The project was approved by the European Parliament during 2018, receiving a budget of €500,000, and then it was the Commission's job to implement it. This initiative, which started its journey as a pilot project in the European Parliament, will develop EU guidance for humane non-lethal and lethal methods to manage the nineteen invasive vertebrate animal species presently included in the EU's list of (invasive) 'Species of Union Concern'.

As such, the project will offer an excellent opportunity to identify and promote best practices for the non-lethal management of IAS. Eurogroup for Animals – as subcontractor of IUCN in the project – will work in collaboration with its member organisations, scientific partners, environmental NGOs and decision makers to influence the project outcomes and minimise the negative impact of management methods on the welfare of the target animals.



## **THE UK AND EU POST-BREXIT: TOWARDS A NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR ANIMAL WELFARE**

Joe Moran, Senior Political Advisor

The British government and the 27 remaining EU Member States have finally struck a revised withdrawal agreement and declaration on their future relationship. Whilst Britain will almost certainly leave the EU on 31 January 2020, nothing will change in practice until the end of 2020 at the earliest – including for animals.

However, while things might feel the same, the talks on new trading arrangements will begin in earnest. The good news for animals in Great Britain is that level playing field provisions are included in the new political declaration, and Eurogroup for Animals and British member organisations will now work to ensure that this includes animal welfare. If this is secured, it would mean that Great Britain (meaning England, Wales and Scotland) would continue to be within the broad regulatory 'orbit' of the EU in these areas, protecting animals there from deregulatory pressures from, for example, the Trump administration.

For the other 'home nation' of the UK – Northern Ireland – things will stay more familiar for even longer. Not only will EU standards continue to apply to animals in the province, but also the single veterinary area across the 32 counties of the island of Ireland will be fully protected.

Whilst the new free trade agreement that the UK and EU will finally strike is still vague, we can say this: the two sides are starting from the same position, and both have brandished their credentials in wanting to prioritise animal welfare in their trade deals. This gives us, as a movement, a huge opportunity. Whilst the UK has always been a leading proponent of animal welfare from within the EU, it can now help to leverage standards within the EU in a different way – and vice-versa. Eurogroup for Animals is working to seek a long term partnership whereby progress in one territory would have to be matched in the other. This 'dynamic alignment' between a large economy on Europe's doorstep and the economic and regulatory superpower that is the EU can and should lead to huge progress for animal welfare, not only here in the continent of Europe, but across the globe.



## CO<sub>2</sub> STUNNING OF PIGS MUST BE REPLACED BY 2025

Elena Nalon, Senior Veterinary Adviser, Farm Animals

Eurogroup for Animals and its 69 member organisations are calling for a move away from high concentration CO<sub>2</sub> stunning of pigs, a common method of slaughter that causes acute pain and severe suffering.

In a newly released position paper, we are calling for investments from the industry and national and EU decision makers to find a painless alternative to the practice, which is used in the majority of large EU pig slaughterhouses as it allows for faster operations and more uniform meat quality.

High concentration CO<sub>2</sub> stunning causes pain and distress in pigs from first exposure to the gas to loss of consciousness, which can take up to a minute to occur. Footage of the suffering inflicted on pigs during this stunning procedure released by animal advocacy organisations has sparked outrage in the EU and internationally.

While we acknowledge that there are currently no commercially viable alternatives to CO<sub>2</sub> stunning of pigs, the position of Eurogroup for Animals is that – in the spirit of Recital 6 of the EC Slaughter Regulation (1099/2009) – the practice should be phased out as quickly as possible. Research and development resources should be urgently devoted to looking for alternatives that can be widely and quickly adopted.

To this end, with our member organisations we will jointly lobby for a revision of the Slaughter Regulation to prohibit the use of high concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> as a stunning method for pigs from 1 January 2025, with a review in 2023 to verify the availability of commercially viable non-aversive alternatives.



## NIGHTMARE COMES TRUE FOR ROMANIAN SHEEP EXPORTED TO PERSIAN GULF

Francesca Porta, Farm Animals

This summer saw a distressing but all-too-common saga unfold, as Romania sent a shipment of 70,000 sheep to the Persian Gulf. Eurogroup for Animals and its member organisation Animals International, which carried out investigations of this terrible practice in previous summers and has been campaigning against it ever since, were delighted when Commissioner Andriukaitis called on Petre Daea, the Romanian Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, to stop the shipment.

However, the plea fell on deaf ears, and by August the sheep – transported on the vessel Al Shuwaikh, owned by the Kuwaiti company Livestock Transport & Trading (KLTT), to Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE for the “Festival of Sacrifice” – had entered the Gulf in temperatures that were reported to have reached 47°C, making a total of five stops in the area.

Animals International’s evidence revealed that hundreds of sheep died by the time they reached their destinations, with an investigator describing the “piles of dead sheep” that were filmed at the unloading point in the Gulf.

At the end of August Commissioner Andriukaitis announced the Commission’s plans to carry out an audit in Romania “shortly”. Eurogroup for Animals and its member organisations will continue to push for infringement proceedings against the Romanian government for having acted in disregard of the EU legislative provisions on live animal transport.



## GET TO KNOW US

# EVENT AND EXHIBITION: “THE NEW POLITICAL TERM: WHAT’S ON THE HORIZON FOR ANIMALS?”

Our event and exhibition in the European Parliament in October was the official transition from our elections campaign to the new political term. In progressing from *Vote for Animals* to *Act for Animals*, it marked a symbolic handover of what we think are the most urgent issues to those who have the power to decide on them.

While the three-day multimedia exhibition showcased the work of Eurogroup for Animals and the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals, the launch event on 8<sup>th</sup> October was co-hosted by MEPs Pascal Durand (Renew, FR), Tilly Metz (Greens/EFA, LU), Anja Hazekamp (GUE/NGL, NL), Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP, FI), Maria Noichl (S&D, DE), Jadwiga Wiśniewska (ECR, PL), Emil Radev MEP (EPP, BG) and Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL, FR). Invited speakers from Member Organisations, the Commission, the Finnish Presidency and the world of animal welfare also contributed talks.

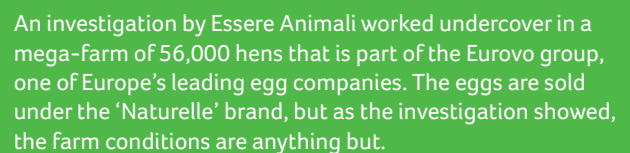
More than 130 people attended the launch event, with many more passing by to view the exhibition.





# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Here are some recent examples that have focused on chickens and their products.





**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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