



**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2015**

**EUROGROUP  
FOR ANIMALS**



# WHO WHO WE ARE

## EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS

Eurogroup for Animals is the European animal advocacy organisation - uniting the voices of animal advocates across Europe.



We work to improve the welfare of animals by driving and delivering coordinated advocacy and campaigns at EU level.



Eurogroup uses its knowledge and expertise to challenge EU decision makers and bring about positive change.



By uniting our members and working together we magnify national initiatives and get our message across at European level.



Eurogroup for Animals exists because European citizens believe animals deserve a voice.

# 30+

For more than 30 years, jointly with our now 50 members in 23 Member states, we have been delivering results and making steps forward in the protection of animals.

# OUR VISION

## BUILDING A EUROPE THAT CARES FOR ANIMALS

We believe Europeans expect the EU to adopt a one welfare approach where animal and human welfare are valued equally.

We are convinced animals will only truly be respected as sentient beings across the 28 Member States, if comprehensive and effective legislation exists at EU level.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### **COHESION AND COMMITMENT**

When I started four years ago as President of Eurogroup for Animals, my aim was to put the interests of the members back at the heart of the organisation. I am delighted to see that today, Eurogroup for Animals has become the premier meeting place and central hub for animal advocacy in Europe.

Through my experience at the RSPCA and WSPA, I am truly convinced that joining forces in the animal welfare world is a crucial pre-requisite to deliver meaningful results for animals. Given the political challenges and hurdles we have to overcome, politicians and policy makers will not listen to us, or will even play us off against each other, if we do not present a coordinated and sound voice.

So how did we close our ranks and reinvigorate the member-inclusiveness of Eurogroup for Animals? The Director and I introduced several mechanisms to ensure membership participation and active involvement. For example, we initiated dedicated working groups for each policy field which function as breeding places for joint campaigning and exchange of best practices. Moreover, all the members have the clear opportunity to influence Eurogroup for Animals' agenda, policies and governance.

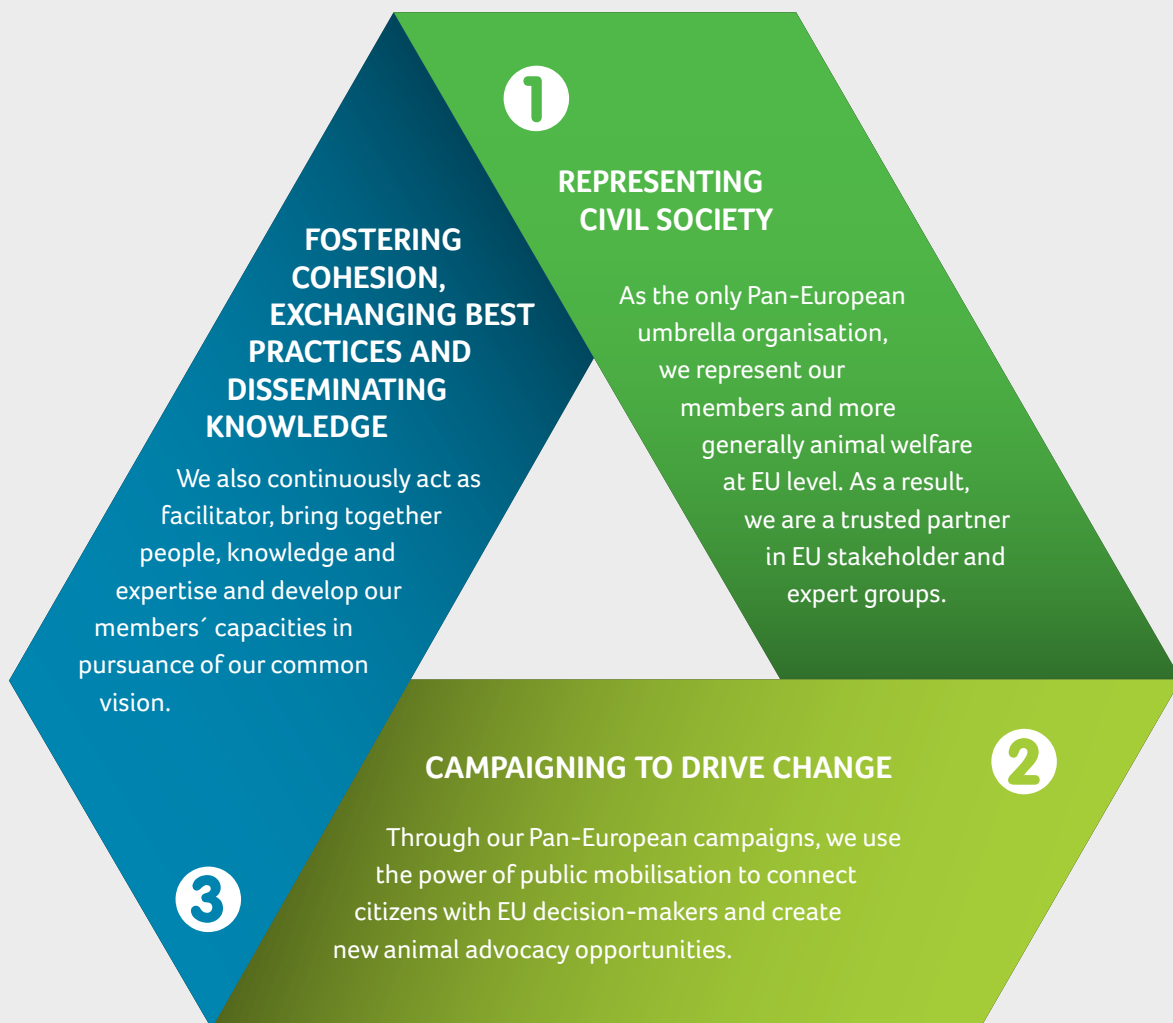
But in the end I believe that it is the commitment to our joint cause that binds, inspires and motivates our membership. I am proud of the cohesive network we have built and the strong reputation that Eurogroup for Animals enjoys and invite everyone to redouble efforts and commitments in the coming months ahead.

# OUR MISSION

## A TRIPLE ROLE

Eurogroup for Animals exists to capture and extend the national influence of its member organisations to the European Union by providing them with complementary skills and expertise. As such, the power of our network unleashes opportunities for change across Europe that cannot be achieved individually.

Our primary focus is to improve the welfare of as many animals as quickly as possible by leading and delivering coordinated lobby towards the EU institutions in pursuance of better legislation and enforcement.





# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

## A CHANGING EU LANDSCAPE

2015 was a year characterised by a world in flux. The political landscape is heavily influenced by Euro-scepticism, the immigration crisis, terror threats, big financial challenges and disengaging Member States.

As a result, progress on animal welfare legislation is stagnating, and implementation and enforcement of existing animal welfare laws are still inadequate in large parts of the EU. Also, in an ever globalising world, the EU is facing increasing pressures to improve competitiveness, often negatively impacting animal welfare. Consequently the effectiveness of existing and potential new legislation is being seriously questioned.

In stark contrast to this environment of political resistance and legislative inertia, the recent Eurobarometer on animal welfare has demonstrated that public support for animal welfare is stronger than ever before. This is mirrored in the commitment of the European Parliament and several Member States who continue to take strong leadership in moving the animal welfare agenda forward.

In times of growing distrust and alienation with the EU, civil society expects the EU to take action on things that really matter to citizens such as animal welfare and here Eurogroup for Animals has never been in a better position to fully exploit its potential and represent its membership.

We have prepared this Annual Report with a lot of pride as we can see that despite resistance and European crises our toolbox is now more complete and our negotiating capital is more in demand than ever before.

By introducing Pan-European campaigning into our tool box, we are matching the demand of members and the expectations of their supporters that we, as a movement, have weight and use it collectively for change.

You will read in this report about the overwhelming success of our first Pan-European campaign *Protect our Pets* as well as other campaigning initiatives on livestock transport, mutilations, severe animal testing and illegal trade of pets and exotic animals.

All goes to show that we stand for a Union of values, and animal welfare is one of them. Eurogroup for Animals will vigorously continue its mission and won't rest until EU decision-makers and politicians truly recognise and treat animals as sentient beings.



# WORKING WITHIN A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

At our 2014 Annual General Meeting, 12 strategic goals were adopted for the current political term. These goals were drawn up on the basis of the focus areas of our membership as recorded in the membership consultation in 2013. These strategic goals, which all resonate with the intrinsic value of animal sentience as laid down in Article 13 of the Lisbon Treaty, serve as beacons for the collective work of Eurogroup for Animals. In this framework we currently have 5 priorities which are here highlighted in colour.



# GENERATING IMPACT FOR ANIMALS





Despite the cohesion and commitment of our network, we operate in a challenging political landscape. This is why Eurogroup for Animals has continued in 2015 to work on a number of horizontal issues with the main political actors to create a favourable political environment to the reforms we pursue.

In doing so, we have continued our transition from a programmatic organisation to one increasingly working with projects, encompassing among others our campaigns which you will read more about in the following pages.

# CREATING A FAVOURABLE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

In October 2014 the new College of Commissioner was presented, headed by former longstanding Luxembourg Prime Minister, Jean-Claude Juncker. The new President set out on a mission of sharpening and simplifying both structure and output. Juncker introduced 10 priority areas, in essence centring on the creation of jobs and growth. As he knew there would be governance issues with having 28 Commissioners from 28 different Member States, all with individual agendas and ambitions, he introduced the concept of Vice-Presidents and project groups. He made 7 Commissioners Vice-Presidents and tasked these with supervising the other Commissioners, all in an attempt to ensure the above mentioned focus and giving a more political drive to the Commission. Eurogroup for Animals was quick to pick up on this new hierarchical system and ensured from the beginning close links not only with the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety directly responsible for animal welfare but also with his peers and his Vice-President Commissioner for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness.



Whilst all these Commissioners in most of their portfolios have cabinet staff knowledgeable and willing to serve animal welfare interests, The President of the College very quickly cemented his mantra of an EU 'doing less but doing better' with the Better Regulation Package seeking to ensure less EU legislation. This shift in terms of management cannot only be written off as a change of personality. There was general agreement in the European capitals that the previous Barroso Commission, especially during the last term, was a chaos of initiatives, conferences and buzz not necessarily leading to anything beneficial. Political insiders judge that despite the massive crises hitting the EU, Juncker's mission is succeeding in securing more agreement and cohesion among capitals but also within the College.

There has been a general trend under this new leadership and with reference to 'Better Regulation', to do less for animal welfare. However, as our movement knows all too well, we have no choice but to secure better regulation rather than less regulation. If the internal market of the EU is to function, a principle that all heads of state and all EU decision makers will agree on, then we need precisely both more regulation and even more importantly more and better enforcement. Through tireless dialogue, Eurogroup for Animals

has managed to secure a positive exchange with many Commissioners that would normally never look into our dossiers. Having frequent meetings with a high number of Commissioners and cabinets is in itself an achievement but being able to bridge the political leg of the College with the administrative leg of the Directorates, as Eurogroup for Animals is increasingly doing, is an even more important improvement in our standing in Brussels.

In this endeavour, we have been able to count on the strong and continued support for our vision within the European Parliament with over 100 European Parliamentarians standing by our side in the European Parliament Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals. Spurred by the need for agenda setting actions in Brussels and by our committed membership, Eurogroup for Animals has developed a new campaigning style focused on pro-actively setting the agenda and leading the debate.



Public facing actions paired with ability to undertake technical roles in negotiations means that Eurogroup for Animals is ideally placed to match the political allure of the EU captains and making our calls heard, even in the midst of violent humanitarian and economic crises. More than ever Eurogroup for Animals must succeed in continuously reframing its relevance and the value of animal welfare within resilient concepts of economic impact, environmental risks as well as consumer protection and human health. This approach is securing success and audience not only in terms of legislative measures as mentioned for *Protect our Pets* but also in building and framing animal welfare as a dossier in the EU.

Eurogroup for Animals secured significant progress with the Governmental Alliance (Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden) with their December 2014 Animal Welfare Declaration and April 2015 Pig Welfare Declaration. In response to a recommendation of these declarations, 2016 is likely to see the first ever Commission-driven Animal Welfare Platform in the EU - a platform that Eurogroup for Animals is working hard to mould as much as possible to serve our interests.

## FARM ANIMALS

Compared to other animal categories, farm animals have the most vested protection in EU law. However they also remain to be a key concern in our movement as pressure on farm production output continues to mount due to the increasing globalization of the farming sector.

Although we continue to invest time and energy in improving animal welfare incrementally by working with a diverse range of stakeholders, we are faced with the hard reality that voluntary initiatives are not always successful.

In 2015 the European Commission withdrew from its driving role in the process behind the European Declaration on Alternatives to the Surgical Castration of Pigs, whose aim is to end surgical piglet castration by 2018. Since 2010, Eurogroup for Animals has been one of the main driving forces behind this voluntary declaration: throughout 2015 we organised or participated in meetings and events together stakeholders and drive change.

However, not only was progress limited, but we also witnessed a disengagement of the Commission against which we are still struggling. As a result, we have decided to focus our 2017 flagship campaign on ending pig mutilations.

Changes in the livestock farming sector are happening at a fast rate: the abolition of the milk quota system in 2015 is an example of a major and potentially negative current driver of change in the dairy industry.

Following the abolition of the quotas, farmers are being encouraged to invest, expand and acquire

more animals, which are mostly kept indoors all year round. With no legislation protecting dairy cattle, we have reason to believe that these developments could have potentially devastating consequences on dairy cow welfare.

These two developments, seen against the background of the EU's political drive to focus on jobs and growth, have put a lot of negotiating capital back into the hands of industry. Whilst Eurogroup for Animals remains very willing to collaborate and work with all stakeholders, the prevailing emphasis on securing European economic interests is hindering our mission to protect farm animals.

Dairy cows are among several species that are farmed in big numbers across the EU and that are still not protected by species-specific legislation. However, even when legislation is in place to protect animal welfare, as is the case of live animal transport, problems of interpretation, differences in cross-border enforcement, and gaps in the legislation can cause severe animal suffering.

In 2015 Eurogroup was involved as partner in a 3-year pilot project funded by DG SANTE to produce guides to best practice during live animal transport. In our view the only way to really make an impact on this sector will be by reducing and replacing transport of live animals (and that by revising the relevant Regulation).

However, with a revision not in sight, we continue to invest in incremental change, hoping that these guides will help operators on the field improve their practices.

INTEGRATING ANIMAL WELFARE  
INTO SUSTAINABLE FARMING AND  
FOOD POLICIES AT EU LEVEL



- Worked directly with the European Parliament to deliver a balanced Parliamentary “Motion for a Resolution on resource efficiency in the food chain” which calls for action from the Commission.
- Submitted a response to the European Commission’s consultation on the Circular Economy and possible EU General Food Law.
- Joined forces with other Brussels-based NGOs to advocate jointly in the Common Agricultural Policy.
- Called relentlessly for food and farming policies to include sufficient recognition of animal welfare as an indicator of sustainability through European Parliament meetings and multiple civil dialogue groups where we have consultative status (organic farming, climate and environment, animal products and the common agricultural policy).
- Prevented the unraveling of animal welfare standards in the Commission’s proposal for a new EU regulation on organic farming. Improved provisions concerning slow growing poultry, sow and fish welfare, and support for adapted breeds.

SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS’ EFFORTS  
IN ENSURING FOOD BUSINESSES  
ADDRESS ANIMAL WELFARE



- Influenced retail business federations to ensure they pick up their responsibility for increased animal welfare, as illustrated by the release of the European Retail Forum’s first ‘issue paper’ on animal welfare early 2015 including many of our suggestions.
- Facilitated the exchange of best practices among our members concerning their higher welfare labels for animal-derived food products. Members’ commitment to sharing information and develop benchmarks for further improvement remained high, despite the challenges of different national circumstances and diversity of solutions employed. This exchange resulted in an internal benchmarking document on broiler standards, which identifies criteria and standards for improved credibility of higher animal welfare broiler labels.

## PROMOTING SOCIETAL AND LIFESTYLE CHANGE TO ONE THAT TRULY RESPECTS AND VALUES ANIMALS



- Continued active partnership on Labelling Matters campaign, lobbying for mandatory method of production labeling at the EU institutions.
- Ensured animal welfare will be duly taken into consideration as part of Green Public Procurement by contributing to a Commission consultation on the topic

## WORKING TOWARDS BETTER PIG WELFARE AND THE PHASING OUT OF SURGICAL PIGLET CASTRATION

- Organized meetings and events to gather stakeholders and foster implementation of the 2010 Declaration on Alternatives to the Surgical Castration of Pigs.
- Actively participated at a European Commission high-level meeting where Member States representatives discussed the degree of implementation of the Pig Directive across the EU, and the perceived obstacles. We have been vocal in calling for a speedy publication of the Guidelines on the implementation of the prohibition of routine tail-docking and on the provision of adequate environmental enrichment.
- Created an MEP working group on Pig Welfare with MEP Jeppe Kofod (DK, S&D), which meets every two months to discuss actions to continue keeping pig welfare on the political agenda. The working group wrote on several occasions to Commissioners Vella and Andriukaitis and to DG SANTE to stimulate progress in the publication of

the Pig Guidelines and also on the topic of piglet castration.

- As a member of ICFAW (International Coalition For Animal Welfare), the animal welfare consulting body of World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Eurogroup for Animals contributed substantially to the drafting of the new chapter on pig welfare, to be later included in the Terrestrial Animal Code.

## REDUCE ANIMAL SUFFERING DURING TRANSPORT

- While we strive to put an end to long-distance animal transport and while 2015 saw the preparation of the flagship campaign #StopTheTrucks, we are also working with the Commission and other stakeholders towards the strict implementation of the existing Transport Regulation. To this end, since 2015 we are partners in a 3-year EU-funded project entitled “Guides to Good Practice on Live Animal Transport”, which will be completed in 2018.

## CONNECTING OUR MEMBERS' CAMPAIGNS FOR CAGE-FREE FARMING

- Organised campaign coordination meetings to facilitate exchange of information on issues related to caged livestock farming, particularly in relation to rabbits and laying hens.
- Members shared details on the results and plans concerning campaigns on cage-free rabbit farming, as rabbits are a species that is still almost exclusively raised in cages, in squalid and old-fashioned buildings. As a result several member organizations agreed to support Lega Antivivisezione (LAV)s 2015 campaign Coraggio Coniglio on social media. With this campaign, LAV denounced the horrendous conditions in which rabbits are farmed, transported and slaughtered in Italy, and called for the legal classification of the rabbit as pet animal in Italy, thus excluding it from the food chain. As of the beginning of June 2016, the campaign already collected approximately 52,000 signatures against the 75,000 needed for the legislative proposal to be discussed in the Italian parliament.



- The coordination group also addressed campaigning for cage-free eggs and a template letter was shared with members to facilitate their outreach to businesses and motivate them to switch to cage-free eggs in their procurement strategies.

### CONNECTING OUR MEMBERS' CAMPAIGNS TO END FORCED FEEDING FOR FOIE GRAS



- Supported members in their request for a revision of the EU poultry meat standards so as to allow producers that do not use force-feeding to market their products as foie gras. For the time being, due to marketing regulation restrictions, these lightweight livers have to be marketed under different denominations, thus putting higher-welfare producers at a competitive disadvantage.
- Provided assistance in the production of a factsheet calling not only for a revision of the marketing standards, but also for the phasing out of the practice of force-feeding and actively supported members actions on this topic through communications.

### ADVOCATING FOR IMPROVED SLAUGHTER PRACTICES

- Eurogroup for Animals has several severe concerns as regards slaughter practices most notably regarding the inadequate stunning parameters for poultry (resulting in ineffective stunning) and the increasing popularity of CO2 stunning for pigs. During an information session at the European Parliament Agricultural committee the Commission reported positively about the level of compliance of Member States with the provisions laid down in the slaughter

Regulation, based on FVO inspections. As we are not satisfied with the reassurances of the Commission, we will carry out our own analysis of these FVO reports in 2016 and we have voiced our concerns also towards the European Food Safety Authority.

- Supported our members in their calls for the abolition of temporary abattoirs during the Id al-Adha (end of Ramadan celebrations) to stop slaughter without stunning. Such a ban became a reality in Flanders in 2015, thanks to GAIA. We also communicated about the initiatives in France (Fondation Brigitte Bardot), where several animals that were destined to illegal abattoirs were seized and saved.
- Eurogroup for Animals acted as observer in the CEN Technical Committee (now dissolved) for the creation of a new Halal standard in Europe, where intended to advocate for the acceptance of reversible stunning.
- Co-signed several letters to the European Commission, together with Compassion in World Farming, to express our disappointment and the need for urgent action in the face of the increasing numbers of animals exported from the EU to the Middle East (Turkey, Lebanon and Israel in particular), where cattle are brutally slaughtered in disregard of both EU legislation on slaughter and the OIE standards.

### ADVOCATING FOR IMPROVED WELFARE OF DAIRY CATTLE

- Developed and disseminated a survey jointly with Compassion in World Farming which showed substantial shortcomings in implementing the Farming Directive in the dairy sector.
- Advocated with the European Commission for an urgent action plan for the dairy sector and we presented our results and our concerns at the last milk civil dialogue group in December. Our concerns were dismissed as irrelevant, but we will continue to discuss and put forward our alternative visions for dairy farming, both in our normal lobbying activity and with dedicated events.

# WILDLIFE

In recent years the ecological role as well as the socio-cultural significance of wildlife for human societies has been recognized worldwide and the importance of wildlife to local communities is now globally acknowledged.

Unfortunately, this has not entailed an equivalent increase in the respect and consideration for the welfare of wild animals. Wild animals are regularly killed during pest control programs or recreational hunting. Many of them are still exhibited in substandard zoos or forced to perform in circuses and dolphinariums, and a growing number of wild animals are kept as pets, with little or no consideration for their physiological, ethological and ecological needs.

In 2015, Eurogroup for Animals continued to contribute to EU policy and legislative development on regulating the keeping and sale of exotic pets (Positive List campaign), reducing wildlife trade and trafficking, ensuring humane methods for the management of Invasive Alien Species are applied by Member States and to support national campaigns and explore EU opportunities to ban wild animals from circuses.

Finally, we worked to urge the European Commission to deliver the good practices guidance of the EU Zoo Directive and we actively participated to consultations for the Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT) concerning the Birds and Habitat Directives.



## 2015 ACHIEVEMENTS

### REGULATING THE KEEPING AND SALE OF EXOTIC PETS

- Contributed to EU policy and legislative development on regulating the keeping and sale of exotic pets, through the advocacy for a Positive List of allowed species (Think positive campaign) jointly with AAP Animal Advocacy & Protection. During 2015 AAP's campaign efforts focused on Lithuania and Croatia while Eurogroup for Animals focused on Greece and Scotland.
- The Think Positive Campaign relies heavily on engaging with local partner organisations and local authorities and a big part of the campaign is about empowering, informing and inspiring these stakeholders.

### CURBING WILDLIFE TRADE AND TRAFFICKING

- Advocated with stakeholders and decision-makers for an interpretation of CITES, the EU wildlife trade and trafficking framework, in a way that improves the welfare of traded animals.
- Actively guided with a broader NGO coalition, the Europarliamentarians gathered in "MEPs for Wildlife", a cross-party group of parliamentarians founded by MEP Catherine Bearder, and launched with the aim of putting wildlife crime "at the top of the EU's agenda." This process included the production of a factsheet on Wildlife Trafficking to inform and steer this group's advocacy efforts.
- Co-chaired the Species Survival Network Working Group on Animals in Captivity, to develop and promote good welfare practice and standards throughout the CITES framework.
- Advocated for a swift adaptation of the regulation on the Trade in Endangered Species



to ban the import of lion body parts coming from any kind of trophy hunting.

- Coordinated the actions of allies and partners through the organisation of networking meetings on trophy hunting.
- Actively contributed in relevant conferences on wildlife trafficking and trophy hunting at the European Parliament.

#### ENSURING THE HUMANE MANAGEMENT OF 'INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES'

- Actively participated in the consultation process concerning the new EU Regulation on the prevention and management of Invasive Alien Species.
- Analysed methods for non-lethal management of IAS and developed a proposal with Italian animal advocacy organisation Lega Anti Vivisezione (LAV) to test the immune contraception (GonaCom) method on a fallow deer population in Italy as a pilot case for innovative and humane population management methods.

- Actively promoted an integrated approach of the IAS regulation with the Positive List system as preventive best practice.
- Advocated for fur animals to be included in the Union List as a method of preventing IAS spread and putting an end to exploitation of animals for fur through meetings with relevant decision makers/stakeholders, correspondence and documents.
- Regularly attended the European Commission IAS Expert Working Group in which Eurogroup for Animals has a seat as the sector representative for animal advocacy organisations.

#### IMPROVING THE WELFARE OF WILDLIFE IN ZOO'S

- Urged the European Commission for and obtained publication of clear EU Zoo Guidance/ Best Practices that we actively helped crafting.
- Actively promoted these guidelines among members and the broader stakeholder community.

### CURBING THE USE OF WILD ANIMALS IN CIRCUSES

- Supported member organizations' campaigns to ban wild animals in circuses through the production of a statement on the ethological needs of wild animals in circus signed by 28 international scientists.
- Coordinated a letter-writing campaign, during which letters signed by the European Parliament Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals were sent to the competent Ministry of each Member State to ask a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses.
- Advocated for a ban at EU level by a dedicated session of the Intergroup on Animal Welfare and Conservation in Strasbourg and supported 40 Europarliamentarians to put forward an Oral

Question to the plenary Parliament asking for an EU ban on the use of wild animals in circuses.

- Celebrated through our communications the successful bans to use of wild animals in circuses in the Netherlands and in Catalonia, as result of AAP Animal Advocacy & Protection, Four Paws, World Animal Protection and ANDA's campaigns.

### PRESERVING THE PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE IN EXISTING LEGISLATION

- Through a wider coalition, participated to consultations for the Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT) concerning the EU Birds and Habitat Directives to ensure that the present level of protection of the species included in the Annexes of the Directives is not lowered by the EU evaluation process.



## FISH WELFARE

In 2015 Eurogroup for Animals inaugurated a Fish Welfare Working Group. This Working Group was made possible with the investment of the Dutch Society for the Protection of Fish and it convened a broad selection of Eurogroup for Animals' members as well as relevant observers.

The primary role of the group has been to exchange knowledge and to develop a common position on Fish Welfare. This process has led to a paper on Fish Welfare, a paper that will now form the basis of Eurogroup for Animals' and its members' EU lobby on fish. The inauguration of the Working Group also helped ensure that Eurogroup for Animals is now formally a member of the recently established EC Aquaculture Steering Committee.

# ANIMALS IN SCIENCE

According to the statistics published by the Commission, there are at least 11.5 million (2011, published 2013) animals used annually for scientific purposes in the EU and numbers remain high. Eurogroup for Animals focuses on ensuring their protection and works with legislators, experts and industry with the aim of ultimately replacing all animal experiments with viable alternatives.

Eurogroup for Animals' commitment to improving the lives of animals continues by actively contributing to and work on the implementation and enforcement of Directive 2010/63/EU with the desire to see improved animal welfare, faster and increased development and uptake of 3Rs, and improved quality of science. If the Directive is not implemented and enforced properly across Europe, it will do little to reduce animal use and animal suffering.

Eurogroup for Animal's influence lies in its participation in stakeholder consultation or expert meetings as a trusted representative of the animal advocacy sector and a reliable source of expertise. These meetings also offer critical opportunities to gather essential information and obtain insights which in turn can inform our members' campaigns.

But, there is little progress in decreasing the numbers of animals used in research: There are not enough alternatives; an increased demand for animal experiments; scattered responsibilities at EU level and internationally; and the authorization process for animal experiments does not (always) function in practice.

Eurogroup for Animals recognises the need for a comprehensive EU strategy on alternative methods to replace animals use in research, testing and education – A paradigm shift, an *Alternative Thinking*.

An EU strategy is necessary to promote innovation and uptake of more humane state-of-the-art methods, developed and based on science but also to contrast and elude regulatory contradictions de facto generating more animal experiments. The EU desperately needs a horizontal strategy for policy development to ensure the proper implementation of the 3Rs and to prevent new animal testing requirements.

There are many reasons why there is an increased demand for animal experiments. The development of new and revised legislation like that on endocrine disruptors, biotechnology, genetic engineering, nanotechnology, food and feed, novel food, and various chemical legislations leads to requirements for testing.

In addition, there are more and more new scientific questions, new technologies, new products, and new legislation - all which ultimately lead to additional animal use. Furthermore, novel in vivo test systems are being developed at the level of the OECD as well as new testing strategies involving animal testing for nanotechnology and endocrine disruptors.

It is important to promote a paradigm shift and to stop relying on the use of animals as the golden rule and recognize that advancing science, research and innovation is possible with methods without the reliance on animals. Informing and engaging with decision makers, and the development of collaborations and dialogue with external stakeholders and potential partners is essential and continued to be the focus of Eurogroup for Animals, approach on this topic in 2015.





**ENSURING INTERNAL ALIGNMENT  
AND COHESION ON OUR VISION  
CONCERNING ANIMALS USED IN  
SCIENCE, TESTING AND EDUCATION**

- Updated the organization's policy on animals used in science, testing and education. The agreed policy will influence all positions taken by Eurogroup for Animals. The organization clearly ambitions the end of animals used for science, testing and education. Without losing sight of the end goal of total replacement of animals, Eurogroup for Animals however agrees to work through incremental steps of reducing and refining. The policy fleshes this approach out in greater details.

**ENSURING DIRECTIVE 2010/63/EU ON THE  
PROTECTION OF ANIMALS USED  
FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES GENERATES  
REAL IMPACT FOR ANIMALS**

- Participated in expert working groups organized by the Commission on narratives for statistical reporting and on additional guidance for the evaluation of projects involving animals in research, testing and education under the Directive.
- Influenced national sector experts during the bi-annual National Contact Points meetings where our organisation has observer status.
- Mobilized the European Parliament to scrutinize the implementation of the Directive through a joint meeting of Eurogroup for Animals and the Parliamentary Intergroup on the welfare and conservation of Animals.
- Investigated the establishment of the National Committees for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. They are to advise the competent authorities and animal welfare bodies on matters dealing with the acquisition, breeding, accommodation, care and use of animals in procedures and ensure sharing of best practices. This research allowed for greater insight in the status quo concerning the

Committees' establishment, composition and the extent of work being undertaken or planned across Europe.

- Gathered evidence on the implementation of the Directive through a survey so as to identify gaps and best practices and inform our lobby efforts during the Directive's review in 2016.
- Updated and disseminated Eurogroup for Animal's policy position on the implementation of the Directive, specifically on alternatives and non-human primates, to support our lobby efforts during this same review.

**PROMOTING ALTERNATIVES  
TO ANIMAL TESTING**

- Actively participated and intervened in events to advocate for our vision on animals used in science, testing and education. This included acting as a chair and speaker at the Linz 29th EUSAAT European congress on alternatives; participation in meetings of the EPAA (European Partnership for Alternative Approaches to animal testing), the EU reference laboratory for alternatives to animal testing (EURL ECVAM), the European Consensus Platform for alternative approaches (ECOPA), the Centre for Alternatives to Animal Testing – Europe (CAAT-EU) meetings, the Biocidal Products Committee (BPC), the Coordination group and the competent authorities on Biocides, and the European Chemical Agency concerning chemical legislation and safety testing.
- Coordinated the visit of Europarliamentarians to EURL ECVAM to raise awareness on the Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement of animal testing methods.
- Co-organised with the European Parliament Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals, a meeting on Alternatives in REACH.
- Contributed to the European Commission stakeholder consultations and meetings on endocrine disruptors, nanomaterials and plant protection products to promote non-animal methods and more broadly, the 3R in safety testing.





# DOGS & CATS

Many of Eurogroup for Animal's members have advocating and caring for companion animals at the core of their work. As a result of years of advocacy work, obtaining references to the welfare of cats and dogs in Council conclusions and the inclusion of companion animals in the EU Animal welfare strategy, there seems to be a better opening today than ever before to harness improved standards at the EU level for their protection.



## 2015 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Confirmed positioning of Eurogroup for Animals as the EU's primary advocacy organisation for cats and dogs thanks to the impact of our successful shaping of the Animal Health law and the obligation it now generates for all breeders and sellers of cats and dogs to be registered with competent authorities by 2021; and our *Protect Our Pets* campaign.
- Established a network of institutional and non-institutional contacts in the arena of companion animals including with leading veterinary public health institutes and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).
- Increased and effective collaboration with Member States in the Council secured amendments to legislation and created pressure on the Commission in a range of policy areas directly affecting dogs and cats.

## ADVOCATING FOR STANDARDIZED AND COMPATIBLE PET IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION (I & R) AS A CONDITION FOR PET WELFARE

- Mobilized a Europarliamentarian to table a parliamentary report asking the Commission to introduce mandatory systems of I&R for pets.

- Elevated the importance of identification and registration of pets (with regards to minimising the risk of disease spread) in the final conclusions on the CALLISTO project.
- Successfully, cost-effectively and timely ran the *Protect Our Pets* campaign which generated +400,000 e-letters sent to Europarliamentarians from all 28 Member States, in the space of only a few months and mobilized the active involvement of 24 Eurogroup for Animals member organisations across 16 Member States. As a result of the campaign the parliamentary report mentioned above was adopted in 2016 with a blowing 90% plenary vote, facing the Commission with a clear expectation for action. The campaign generated over 1 million tweets and retweets and strengthened Eurogroup for Animal's reputation.
- Wording added to the proposal on Animal Health clarifying the need for pet breeders and sellers to be registered with Competent Authorities. To obtain this we mobilized the support of decision-makers for 5 of our most critical amendments to the law.
- Co-organised the second conference on the welfare of cats and dogs in the EU.



# EQUINES

**Equine welfare is not properly protected in current EU law. There are at least three different official definitions of 'equidae', three sub-categories of equid, and several context-specific definitions which depend on how the animal is being used. The versatility of their roles, even as 'farm animals', means their welfare is often compromised. A law which aims to facilitate the functioning of the internal market for racing may well have negative impacts on a donkey being kept for work in tourism. Despite many estimates indicating that the equine sector is one of the most profitable rural employers within the EU, it is not even clear how many equines there are within the Union.**

That's why in 2015 Eurogroup for Animals produced, together with World Horse Welfare, the first comprehensive assessment of the equine sector in the EU. 'Removing the Blinkers – the health and welfare of EU equidae' lifted the lid on the health and welfare of Europe's equines, examined the legislative context, and suggested key remedies to the welfare issues affecting equines in the 28 Member States. The report was launched at a meeting of the Animal Welfare Intergroup in Strasbourg, and was

further examined at a dedicated conference in the European Parliament complex in Brussels in October.

Crucially, the report, which was widely welcomed by the equine sector and by executive agencies at various levels of governance, revealed that in spite of the many differences between the roles and perceptions of equines across the Union, the welfare problems that they face are often remarkably similar. Keeping in unsuitable environments, is as likely to affect a horse in Bulgaria as a donkey in Germany. Concerns on neglect are just as likely to be raised in the United Kingdom as in Cyprus. It is clear that no Member State is entirely free of welfare issues, and yet many of these challenges stem from ignorance and a lack of knowledge.

The key conclusions from the report which could make a real difference to addressing the issues around ignorance and knowledge will now form the basis of a formal call from the European Parliament to the Commission, and which will be based on three areas: Guidance to equine owners and prospective owners on the responsibilities and obligations that come with owning an equine; the use of innovative funding mechanisms to reward and drive the very best practices of on-farm equine welfare; and empowering consumers so that they can reward those businesses that use equines responsibly.



## 2015 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Highlighted the scale of the equine sector in the EU and the welfare challenges facing equines through the ground-breaking report, 'Removing the Blinkers'.
- Secured the political support for a formal call from MEPs to the Commission on the responsible ownership and care of equines.
- Secured consideration of equines in the ongoing EC funded project 'Good guide to animal transportation'.
- Advocated for the maintenance of current checks at the time of slaughter via the Legislative proposal on Official Controls.
- Cleared the way for a revised equine identification law, to finally remedy the shambolic system that led to the horsemeat crisis in 2013, via new legislation relating to animal health and breeding.
- Mobilized decision-makers to remove wording in the European Commission's Veterinary Medicines Proposal which would have prohibited the proper identification and registration of equines across Europe.

# OUR PROJECTS





#FUR  
FREE  
EU

Various opinion polls from several Member States show that EU citizens are highly negative towards fur farming. Fur farming has already been banned in many Member States. Eurogroup for Animals' position is therefore that fur farming must be phased out in Europe.

Because the commercial forces in favour of the industry are extremely powerful, Eurogroup for Animals has joined forces with the Fur Free Alliance for the duration of this project, unleashing the power of 70 animal advocacy organisations.

This project aimed at countering fur farming by exchanging information, best practices in campaigning and stimulate new ideas among the fur experts of both organisations. The partners built a strong counter-lobby to the fur industry at the EU level, devised strategies to support national fur bans and to counter possible threats to existing bans.

## ★ 2015 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Supported the materialization of fur bans in the Netherlands and in Wallonia (Belgium).
- Published and disseminated the report "Nordic fur trade – marketed as responsible business".
- Mobilized the support of the European Parliament and other stakeholders through the organization of events (seminars, conferences, network meetings).
- Advocated for fur bans in Belgium, Norway, Czech Republic, Finland, Poland, Sweden.
- Positioned the alliance as opinion makers on the topic through different media actions and secured recognition of the partnership as the go-to reference on fur in Brussels.
- Produced high quality and professional advocacy tools (factsheets).
- Raised awareness among decision-makers that fur farming is inherently unethical and by its very nature contrary to any animal welfare minimum standards.



In the aftermath of the 8-hours campaign that in 2011 managed to mobilise 1,1 million signatories and urged the European Commission for a revision of the Transport Regulation (1/2005), it became clear that the Commission was not intending to take up the call from civil society. Naturally, the disappointment of the animal advocacy movement was significant.

As a reaction to this Eurogroup for Animals picked up its transport work in 2013 through the formation of a transport consortium of supportive members willing to invest in the pursuit of a solution to this problem. This consortium implemented a strategy focused on building momentum among decision-makers to turn the tide and create a political opportunity.

When in December 2014 the three governments of Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark sent in an official request for a revision of the Transport Regulation, it was felt that time was ripe for a new attempt to get a revision of Regulation 1/2005. This was confirmed when Sweden in April 2015 joined the request, which was the signal for Eurogroup for Animals to reshape its consortium and position the project into its mainstream work. After 2 years of momentum generation among decision-makers and animal advocacy organisations, it was decided to invest heavily to exploit the political opportunity offered by these Ministerial calls for change.

The last quarter of 2015, Eurogroup for Animals undertook all necessary preparations to conceive, seek consensus on and produce the necessary tools for a coordinated campaign among the 22 member organisations active on farming issues.

The campaign development phase received a lot of interest and support throughout Eurogroup for Animals' membership and the 2016 flagship campaign *#StopTheTrucks* was eventually launched in March 2016.



# TRADE AND ANIMAL WELFARE

The Trade & Animal Welfare (T&AW) Project commenced its activities in October 2015 under the theme of “bridge-building”. This is done through three interconnected channels: building mutual understanding between animal welfare and trade universes, delivering specific advocacy tools, and opening advocacy channels. Eurogroup for Animals, through the T&AW Project, aims at being a leading voice on animal welfare concerns and opportunities in the international trade agenda and to advocate for solutions for real improvements for animals.



## 2015 ACHIEVEMENTS

In the limited time of the last three months of 2015, the T&AW Project delivered:

- Consensus on a short-term trade and animal welfare strategy.
- Grounds for the first-ever common position on Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership.
- Assistance to project partners and interested member organization in understanding specific links between trade and animal welfare (e. g. IUU fishing in Thailand, origin labelling in US and EU, etc.).
- Initial links with the Directorate General for Trade, the European Parliament International Trade Committee, European Council Trade Policy Committee and other stakeholders.

# FUTURE OUTLOOK

## STEPPING UP CAMPAIGNS

**Whilst representing and uniting the animal welfare movement have historically been at the core of Eurogroup for Animals, the campaign element in its now triple role has been reinforced in the course of 2015. In the past, Eurogroup for Animals was often very successful by means of traditional and fairly discreet lobby work in Brussels. However, as it has become increasingly difficult to secure animal welfare interests, the organisation has now to invest more to achieve the same results.**

One of the ways to draw the attention back to the animal welfare dossiers is through Pan-European public facing campaigns. By highlighting specific topics to a larger audience throughout Eurogroup for Animals' membership, the movement maximises its chances of booking progress and success. Today more than ever, decisions on EU concerns are made through the different European capitals and it is therefore essential that our organisation works in an integrated manner with its members.

Besides its regular programs and occasional projects, Eurogroup for Animals now produces one central public facing campaign per year. All public facing campaigns are conceived and organised through relevant working groups within Eurogroup for Animals' infrastructure in a consensual and cohesive manner. They aim to put at the disposal of the entire membership ready-to-use campaigns including online tools (landing page, social media elements, creative visuals including infographics, videos or pictures), concerted political messages and relevant campaign implementation and reporting guidance.

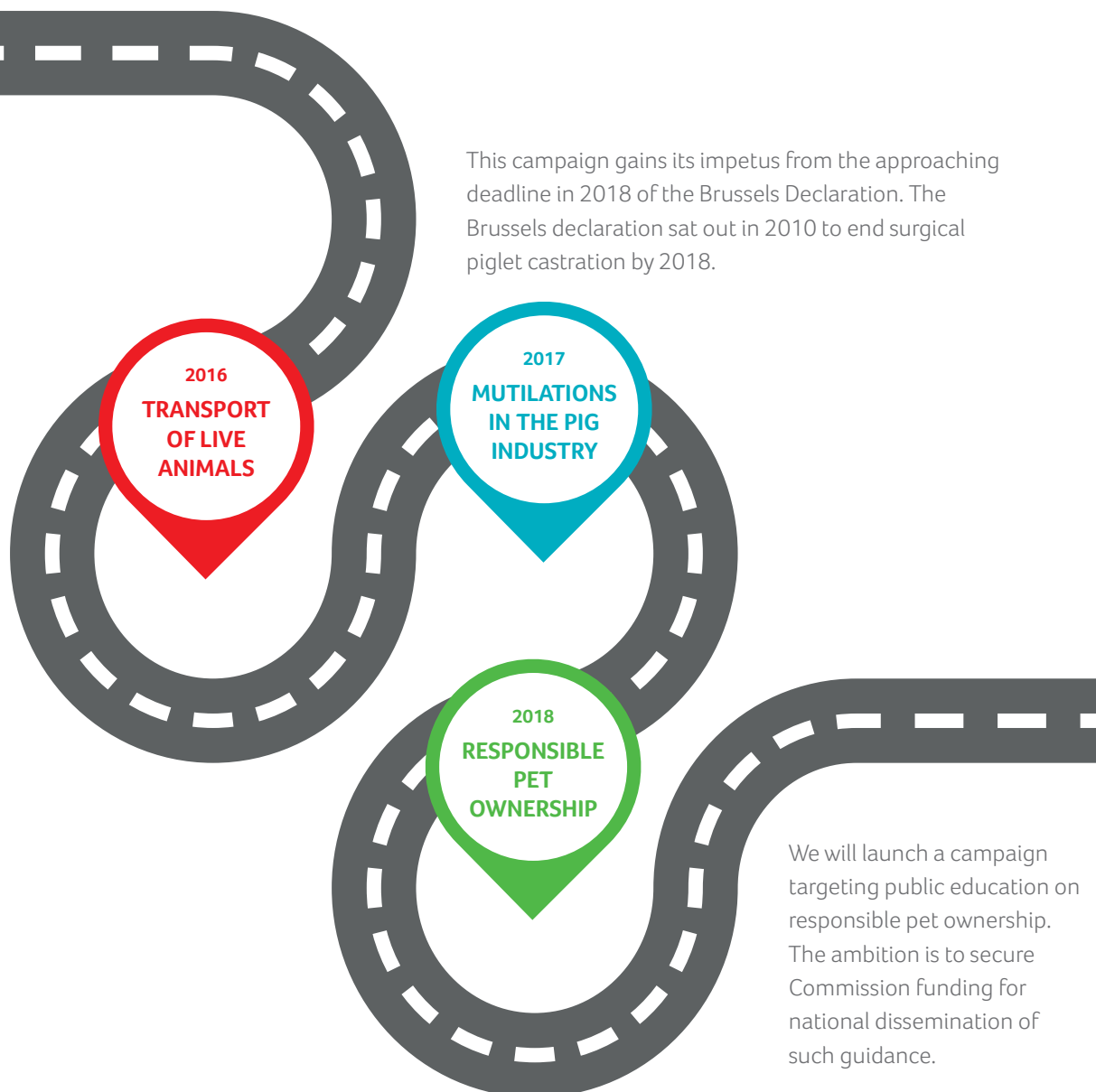
The first attempt to orchestrate such a Pan-European public facing campaign was launched in 2015 with *Protect our Pets*. The campaign's aim of ending illegal trade in pets especially cats and dogs was a cause and a campaign that resonated with a majority of Eurogroup for Animal's membership.

Thanks to the widespread support and a lot of hard work throughout the membership, this campaign was a big success. Over the next three years, Eurogroup for Animals will continue to launch public facing flagship campaigns in and attempt to open doors that would otherwise remain closed and create political opportunities for change through mass public mobilisation.

Early 2016, we have launched the campaign to end long distance transport of live animals, *#StopTheTrucks*. Transport of live animals has been at the heart of public concern and the work of our members for decades and despite the success of the *8-hours campaign* nothing has changed. The Transport Regulation remains to be unfit for protecting the welfare of transported animals. Eurogroup for Animals' Board therefore decided that the suffering of the millions of animals that are transported every day cannot be overlooked even if there remains to be wide resistance in the Commission and in certain Member States to act. Please read more about the ongoing transport campaign on [www.stophetrucks.eu](http://www.stophetrucks.eu).

In 2017, we will campaign against mutilations in the pig industry. This campaign gains its impetus from the approaching deadline in 2018 of the European Declaration on alternatives to surgical castration of pigs (the so-called "Brussels Declaration"). The Brussels Declaration sat out in 2010 to end surgical piglet castration by 2018. This deadline will not be respected and what is worse is that most stakeholders are now withdrawing from the process all together leaving little hope for real changes for many years to come. Eurogroup for Animals wants to force political leadership and industry buy-in as clear and long standing examples from both Belgium and The Netherlands show that phasing out piglet castration is both possible and economically viable. This campaign will therefore have piglet castration at its core, however, the plight





of pigs goes far beyond castration. Pigs are systematically being mutilated through practices such as castration, tail-docking and teeth clipping. The EU Pigs Directive does not protect them in practice, in the absence of proper enforcement, and this cannot go unnoticed.

Finally, in 2018 we will campaign on responsible pet ownership. In a political climate where there is no appetite for legislation but only for guidance. Eurogroup for Animals will prepare a campaign that fits this paradigm. We do so knowing that often future legislation is based on past guidance, and therefore we will launch a campaign targeting public education on responsible pet ownership. The ambition is to secure Commission funding for national dissemination of such guidance.

Apart from these public facing Pan-European campaigns that aim at creating a peak moment to address and/or reintroduce topics, Eurogroup for Animals is also working on selected multi-year campaigns with less public facing appeal but of high strategic importance. The current multi-year projects for the period 2016-2018 are (i) the promotion of alternatives to animal testing and (ii) the promotion of the positive list as a means to regulate the keeping and trade of exotic pets.

# ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT





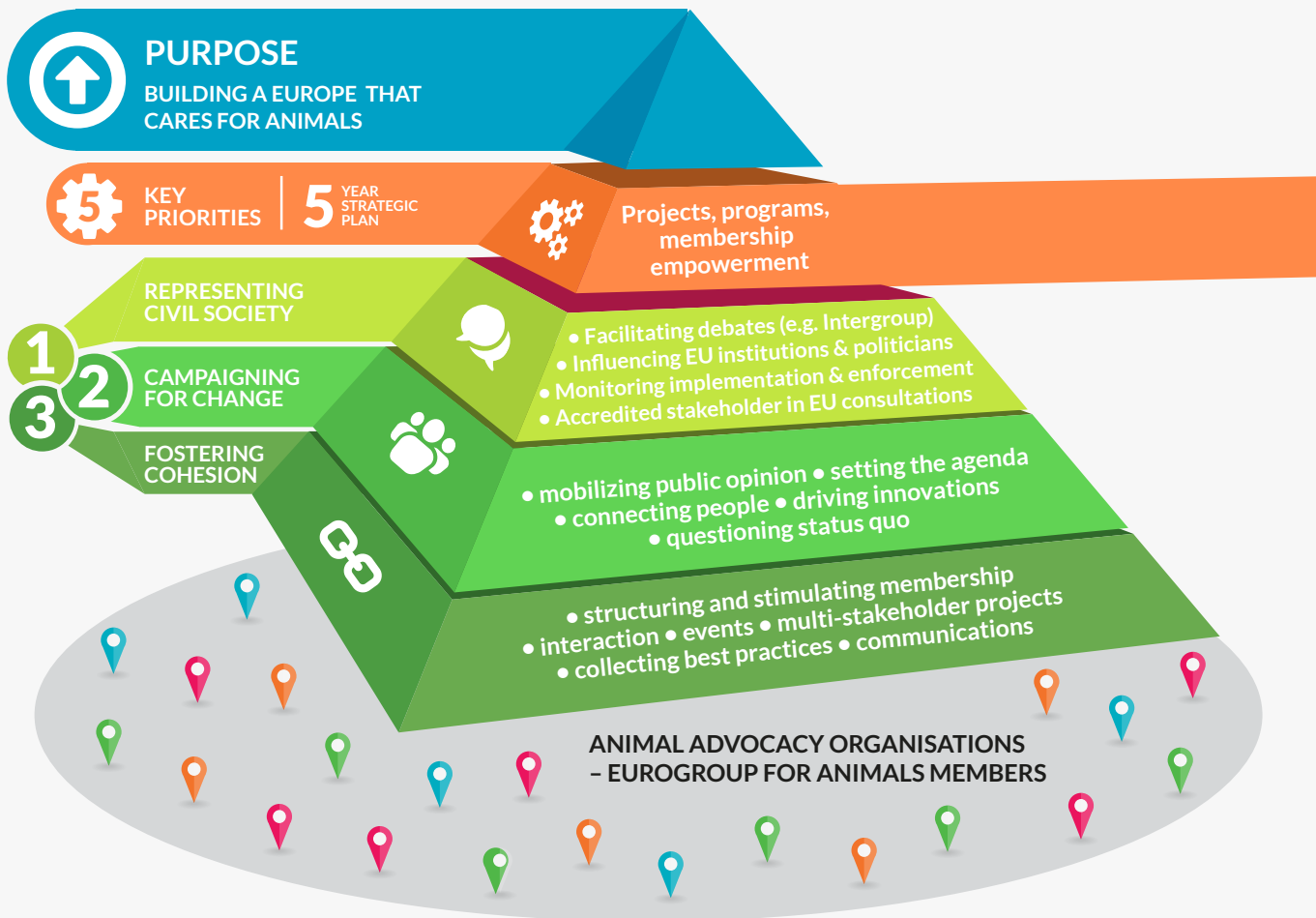
# REFINING OUR OPERATING MODEL

**The changed political landscape in which we operate requires agility and adaptation from our organisation and in 2015 Eurogroup for Animals has therefore continued to refine its operating model. As a membership organisation, our members are at the core of who we are but also at the core of how we operate.**

**Our member-driven way of working is our key strength and central to our advocacy methods. This is more justified than ever given the increased need for integrated lobby between Eurogroup for Animals and its members, mirroring the increased influence of European capitals on the EU political scene.**

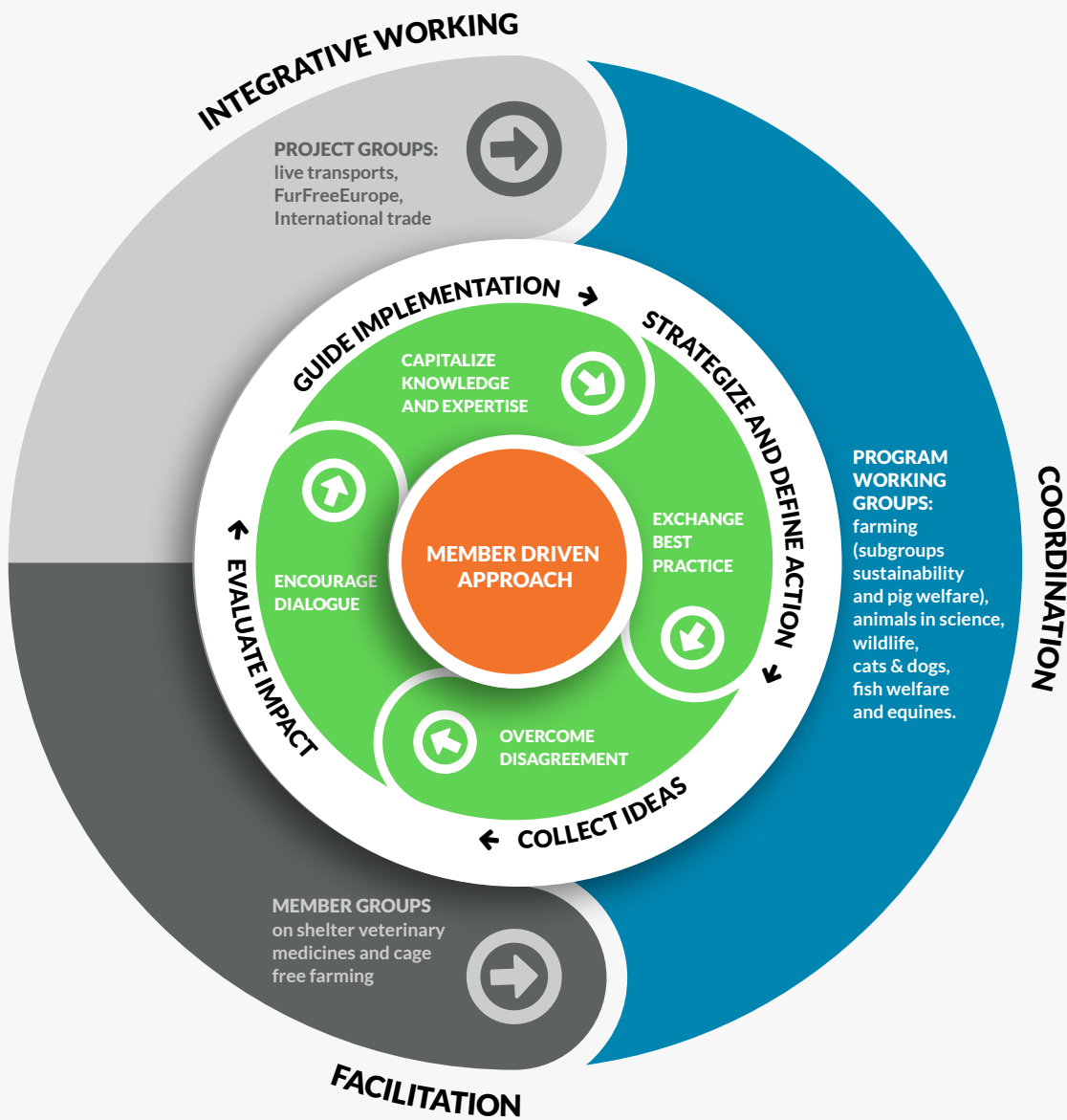
Our operating model is based on our triple role, referred to earlier: (1) representing civil society on animal welfare at the EU level, (2) campaigning to drive change in favour of animals across Europe and (3) fostering cohesion, exchanging best practices and disseminating knowledge. These roles are intertwined and mutually reinforce each other, reflecting our distinct advocacy approach.

In pursuing our common goals for animals, we connect, coordinate and leverage our members' work across the EU and globally whilst mobilising citizens, consumers, stakeholders and national governments for our cause. This bottom up momentum turns our members' work into political opportunities at EU level using our specialists' skills to identify trends and legislative hooks or set the agenda for the EU to adopt higher animal welfare standards and ensuring optimal enforcement. This continuous interaction also allows us to find new inspiration or identify new partners, and hence be even more representative of our sector while achieving more impact through our campaigns.



Eurogroup for Animals works on the basis of a 5 year strategic plan adopted by its Annual General Assembly reflecting the European Parliament and European Commissions’ political terms. This overall plan is further broken down in sub-plans including 5 key priorities for this term, as highlighted earlier in this report. The scope of EU competences on each issue, the importance for animals, the political readiness for change and the relevance to our members, determine our approach on each theme, ranging from a highly integrated way of working to a more loose exchange of information. At times of political and financial constraint, we are convinced this focus will be critical in continuing to deliver significant results for animals.

But it is the working groups of Eurogroup for Animals that constitute the real motor of our movement and are instrumental in deciding on joint actions, exchanging best practices and providing the right strategic outlook on the specific dossiers. They are a critical factor in the accomplishment of our triple role.



Program working groups were held in 2015 on farming, with two sub groups on sustainability and pig welfare, animals in science, wildlife, cats and dogs, fish welfare and equines.

Apart from the programmatic working groups, Eurogroup for Animals also runs project (working) groups, reflecting the most integrated way of working within our infrastructure. In 2015 we held project groups on fur farming and also on animal welfare and trade.

As our members also derive a lot of benefit from mutual exchange on topics outside of an immediate EU competence or specific political opportunity, we also facilitate interaction between them through member (working) groups which in 2015 took the shape of a shelter veterinary platform and a member group on cage free farming.

In terms of lobby efforts and booking progress, the European Parliament remains our strongest ally among the European institutions. The Intergroup for the Welfare and Conservation of Animals is one of the largest and most active Intergroups in the European Parliament and Eurogroup for Animals has been successfully running its secretariat since its inception in the 80ies. The role of the Parliament is essential to put pressure on both the European Commission and European capitals. These strong ties of Eurogroup for Animals also alert our movement on national trends and developments and offer us a forum inside the institutions to showcase our work. This Intergroup has undergone a strong professionalization recently, with 2015 seeing the establishment of specialised sub-working groups on strategic themes such as pigs, labelling and transport. It shows our capacity to take and maintain leadership towards decision-makers, set the agenda and mobilize support for our cause.

As a recognised representative of civil society Eurogroup for Animals participates in many advising and consultative fora within the Institutions. These vehicles, constitute another facilitated opportunity for us to push our advocacy agenda to policy and decision makers.

Our advocacy work and membership development is also strongly supported by our communications. We publish a weekly newsletter (Eurobulletin) for our members to keep them abreast of developments in EU circles that affect or concern animal welfare as well as a quarterly magazine for all our stakeholders (Eurogroup for Animals Magazine), of which the first edition was released in January 2016. We are also very active on social media and frequently organise events to showcase our work, advocate for change towards decision-makers and to connect with stakeholders to discuss opportunities and devise new solutions for increased animal welfare.

Finally, because we are a membership organisation, we invest heavily in cultivating our network and delivering real value to our members. As such, we regularly offer our members an opportunity to showcase their work to EU audiences, support their national campaigns through our communications and facilitate their interaction with European decision-makers through dedicated lobby rounds.

## EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS ANIMAL WELFARE EXPERT REPRESENTATION IN EUROPEAN COMMISSION OR RELATED CONSULTATIVE FORA

### DG SANTÉ

- Expert Group on the European Declaration for alternatives to the surgical castration of pigs and its sub-groups
- Stakeholder group working on the guidelines for the implementation of the Pigs Directive
- General SANTE Stakeholder Advisory Group
- Biocides unit Competent Authorities meetings (observer) and Biocides Coordination Group (Observer)
- Equine Steering Committee
- European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) Stakeholder Consultative platform

### DG AGRI

- Civil Dialogue Group (CDG) on Animal products and its sub-groups
- CDG on CAP
- CDG on Environment and climate change
- CDG International aspects of agriculture
- CDG on milk
- CDG on organic farming

### DG ENVI

- Competent Authorities for REACH and CLP (CARACAL)
- Working Group Invasive Alien Species (WGIAS)
- National contact points meetings for directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals for scientific purposes
- Expert group on directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals for scientific purposes

### DG ENTREPRISE

- Cosmetics working group
- European Partnership for alternative approaches (EPAA)
- European Chemicals agency (ECHA) Member State Committee for REACH and Biocidal products committee

### DG EDUCATION

- European Union Reference Laboratory for Alternatives to Animal Testing stakeholder forum

### DG MARE

- Aquaculture Advisory Council

# CULTIVATING OUR KEY ASSETS

Eurogroup for Animals derives its impact from a number of key assets which it has carefully acquired and developed over the past 36 years. This includes its network of partners and allies, its relationship with the European Parliament and other decision-makers and its corporate strengths such as its team of passionate and experienced professionals, its reputation and its knowledge capital on animal welfare.

## OUR NETWORK

### CULTIVATING MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT: A SYSTEMATIC AND PROFESSIONAL APPROACH

Putting members at the core of our work, the motto of our organisation since 2014, implies that we understand our members and have a capacity to listen to their needs and expectations. At times of financial constraints and increased donor scrutiny, it is of paramount importance to also demonstrate that we deliver on our promises as a membership organisation.

This is why, to acknowledge and grow loyalty, engagement and satisfaction of its members, Eurogroup for Animals has decided to further professionalise its membership management. At times of political headwind, we have come to the conclusion that working in a more integrated, coordinated and cohesive manner will be of paramount importance to unleash our collective power and book the much needed results for animals. We are convinced happier and more engaged members will deliver those results faster and better through a strong and healthy Eurogroup for Animals.

It is with these thoughts on the back of our mind that our team has rolled out its first explicit membership engagement strategy that aims to keep the pulse of every member in terms of satisfaction and engagement. As such, we have started a process of refining our membership proposition, reflecting on the ideal membership journey within Eurogroup for Animals, developing tailored plans around loyalty recognition and reward and more generally scrutinizing our membership support services to ensure they are fit for purpose.

We have also increased the occurrence of face-to-face meetings to reinforce our mutual understanding, clarify expectations, and evaluate and report on commitments.

To ensure the growth of our network only brings benefits, we have also clarified our membership recruitment process and clarified how and when existing members will be involved.



## GROWING OUR NETWORK

2015 saw an unprecedented growth of our network, with 7 new organisations joining us from across Europe.



**La Ligue Nationale pour la Protection des Animaux (LNPA):** (Lux.) Multiple issue organisation, but with a strong focus on companion animals, working at the political level to drive legislative change and running the country's primary shelter. LNPA was one of the founding member of our organisation.



**Otwarte Klatki:** (Poland) Aims at educating the general public on animal rights, limiting industrial animal husbandry and promoting veganism.



**Animal Protection Agency:** (UK) Focusing on ceasing the trade in wildlife for pets and lobby for improved legislation to protect animal welfare.



**L214:** (France) Focusing on farm animals, by organising key public-facing campaigns to change legislation and attitudes towards animal products, consumption conditions of farming, transport and slaughter.



**World Animal Net** (USA) The world's largest network of animal protection societies (3000 affiliates in more than 100 countries), established to improve communication and coordination among the world's animal protection groups.



**Dyrevernalliansen**

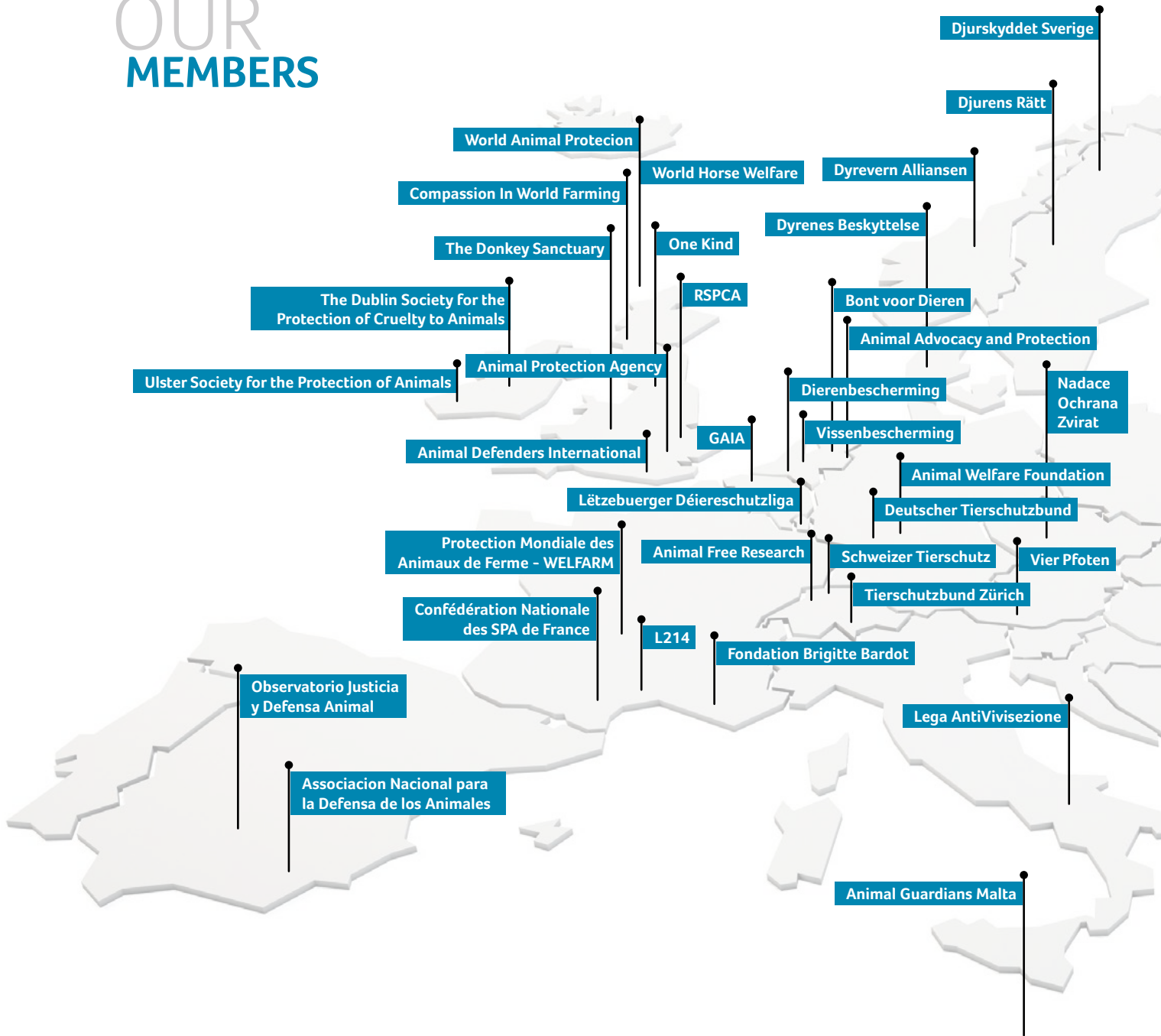
**Dyrevern Alliansen:** (Norway) Aims to promote animal interests, towards public authorities and businesses, document and expose human mistreatment of animals to raise awareness for their plight.

## ANIMAL GUARDIANS MALTA

**Animal Guardians Malta:** Works to educate the public to fight apathy, build empathy and take concrete action to end all forms of animal exploitation worldwide, from the legislative level to the consumption one.

We were sad to see Humane Society International (HSI) and the Ligua Portuguesa Dos Direitos do Animal (LPDA) leave Eurogroup for Animals in 2015. Let us take this occasion to warmly thank them for the years of successful collaboration and wish them well for their continued essential work for animals.

# OUR MEMBERS





## LIST OF MEMBERS (June 2016)

**Animal Action Greece**  
Greece

**Animal Friends Croatia**  
Croatia

**Animal Defenders International (ADI)**  
United Kingdom

**Animal Guardians Malta**  
Malta

**Animal Protection Agency (APA)**  
United Kingdom

**Animal Welfare Foundation**  
Germany

**Animal Free Research**  
Switzerland

**Animalia**  
Finland

**Asociacion Nacional para la Defensa de los Animales (ANDA)**  
Spain

**Bont voor Dieren**  
Netherlands

**Cats Protection**  
United Kingdom

**Compassion In World Farming**  
United Kingdom

**Confédération Nationale des SPA de France (CNSPA)**  
France

**Deutscher Tierschutzbund**  
Germany

**Dierenbescherming**  
Netherlands

**Djurens Rätt**  
Sweden

**Djurskyddet Sverige**  
Sweden

**The Dublin Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (DSPCA)**  
Ireland

**Dyrenes Beskyttelse**  
Denmark

**Dyrevern Alliansen**  
Norway

**Dzīvnieku Draugs**  
Latvia

**Estonian SPA (ESPA)**  
Estonia

**Fondation Brigitte Bardot**  
France

**GAIA**  
Belgium

**L214**  
France

**Lega AntiVivisezione (LAV)**  
Italy, Lithuania

**Lietuvos Givunu teisu apsaugos organizacija (PIFAS)**  
Lithuania

**Lëtzebuurger Déiereschutzliga (LNPA)**  
Luxembourg

**Nadace Ochrana Zvirat**  
Czech Republic

**Observatorio Justicia y Defensa Animal (OJDA)**  
Spain

**One Kind**  
United Kingdom

**Organisation for Respect and Care of Animals (ORCA)**  
Serbia

**Otwarte Klatki**  
Poland

**Protection Mondiale des Animaux de Ferme - WELFARM**  
France

**Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)**  
United Kingdom

**Schweizer Tierschutz STS**  
Switzerland

**Sloboda Zvierať**  
Slovakia

**AAP Animal Advocacy and Protection**  
Netherlands

**Suomen Eläinsuojeluyhdistys (SEY)**  
Finland

**The Donkey Sanctuary**  
United Kingdom

**Tierschutzbund Zürich**  
Switzerland

**Towarzystwo Obrony Zwierząt w Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej (TOZ RP)**  
Poland

**Ulster Society for the Protection of Animals (USPCA)**  
United Kingdom

**Vier Pfoten Austria**  
Austria, Bulgaria, Romania

**Vissenbescherming**  
Netherlands

**World Animal Net**  
USA

**World Animal Protection**  
United Kingdom

**World Horse Welfare**  
United Kingdom



# OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

## FACILITATING THE INTERGROUP ON THE WELFARE AND CONSERVATION OF ANIMALS

The European Parliament continues to play a key role for Eurogroup for Animals' advocacy work in the EU institutions as it allows to exert influence also on other EU institutions and to promote new initiatives for policy developments.

The European Parliament's Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals, which is the oldest, yet most active and well attended Intergroup in the Parliament is a critical tool for us in this respect. By holding its secretariat, a position envied by many, Eurogroup for Animals is put in a unique position to influence the Parliament from within. As such, we have become the privileged partner of many parliamentarians (MEPs) and work hand in hand with all political groups to generate better animal welfare policy and legislation.

In 2015, our objectives with the European Parliament (EP) were:

- To engage MEPs in Eurogroup for Animals campaigns, in particular *Protect our Pets*;
- To introduce animal welfare related language in parliamentary dossiers like the Commission proposal for a revised EU legislative framework on organic production and labelling of organic products;
- Further strengthening the network of supporters in the EP by actively and systematically involving the team and the member organisations;
- Finding the right balance between strongly positioning Eurogroup for Animals and the secretarial work for the Animal Welfare Intergroup;
- Unleash the potential of the Intergroup and work on the implementation of its strategy.

Despite the unfavourable climate for new developments in EU Animal Welfare Policy, we managed to actively engage MEPs in Eurogroup for Animals initiatives.

One of the major outcomes of our work in the Parliament was the adoption of the joint motion for a resolution, RC-B8-1278/2015 on a new Animal Welfare Strategy (AWS) for 2016-2020. This resolution will be essential to allow us putting continued pressure on the Commission to come forward with a new AWS. This success was also possible thanks to the input of the Animal Welfare Intergroup's working group for a new AWS which had prepared a working document that served as a basis for the Parliament motion.

But Eurogroup's campaign *Protect our Pets* is probably the most striking success of 2015. Under this campaign around 400,000 letters from EU citizens were sent to MEPs calling on them to take action for the introduction of compatible systems for the registration of pet animals across Member States. The Parliament has reacted to it with the drafting of a motion which will be the basis of related Council conclusions under the Dutch presidency.

In 2015 we have further strengthened our network of supporters in the European Parliament. This is also reflected by the good attendance of the monthly Intergroup meetings and the willingness of MEPs from all political directions to actively engage themselves in animal welfare related initiatives. Besides you can see a snapshot of our actions in 2015.

Organisation of  
**12 INTERGROUP SESSIONS**  
as a means to deliver the Intergroup  
strategy; Average attendance of about  
22 MEPs per session

**28 LETTERS SENT**  
by the Animal Welfare Intergroup;  
**250 REPLIES TO REQUESTS**  
for information from MEPs

Successful adoption of the joint motion  
for a resolution,  
RC-B8-1278/2015 on a  
**NEW ANIMAL WELFARE  
STRATEGY FOR 2016-2020**

**150 MEETINGS**  
with MEPs, Assistants or Political  
Advisers

**6 JOINT MEETINGS**  
of MEPs and Eurogroup for Animals with Commissioners or Commission officials

Preparatory work  
**OWN-INITIATIVE REPORTS**  
on the welfare of dogs and cats (MEP  
Renate Sommer) and horses (MEP Julie  
Girling)

Organisation or co-organisation of  
**4 ADDITIONAL MEP  
HOSTED EVENTS**  
(Pets, Equines, Trophy hunting, Fur)

successful tabling (90%) and  
adoption of  
**AMENDMENTS IN THE ORGANIC  
FARMING REGULATION REVIEW**

Organisation of  
**4 LOBBY ROUNDS**  
with Eurogroup for Animals Members



Co organisation of **MEP STUDY TRIP** to European Center for Validation of  
Alternative methods (to animal experimentation)

Recruitment of further  
**24 INTERGROUP MEMBERS**  
(now standing at >100)

**30 NEWS ARTICLE**  
for the Intergroup website;  
**12 PRESS RELEASES**

# OUR TEAM

Currently, Eurogroup for Animals' Board is composed of:



**Peter Davies**  
President  
Independent (UK)



**Britta Riis**  
Vice-President  
Dyrenes Beskyttelse (DK)



**Koos Boering**  
Honorary Treasurer  
Independent (NL)



**Mai Kivela**  
Animalia (FI)



**Philip Lymbery**  
Compassion in World  
Farming (UK)



**Roman Kolar**  
Deutscher  
Tierschutzbund (DE)



**Frank Dales**  
Dierenbescherming  
(NL)



**Christophe Marie**  
Fondation Brigitte  
Bardot (FR)



**Michel  
Vandebosch**  
GAIA (BE)



**David Bowles**  
RSPCA (UK)



**Helmut Dungler**  
Vier Pfoten (AT)



**Roberto Bennati**  
Lega Antivivisezione  
(IT)

The Board works hand in hand with the Director and her team of experienced staff, which in April 2016, is composed of:



**Reineke Hameleers**  
Director



**Lina Christensen**  
Program Manager &  
Deputy Director



**Sophie De Jonckheere**  
Communications &  
Development manager



**Camilla Björkbom**  
Project Leader Fur  
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**Elise Fleury**  
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**Christine van Horen**  
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**Joe Moran**  
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Programme Leader /  
Political Affairs Adviser



**Elena Nalon**  
Farm Animals  
Programme Leader



**Francesca Porta**  
Farm Animals  
Programme Officer



**Kirsty Reid**  
Animals in Science  
Programme Leader



**Ilaria di Silvestre**  
Wildlife Programme  
Leader



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Communications  
Officer



**Jan Walter**  
Project Leader Trade  
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# GOVERNANCE AND FINANCIAL JUSTIFICATION

## GOVERNANCE

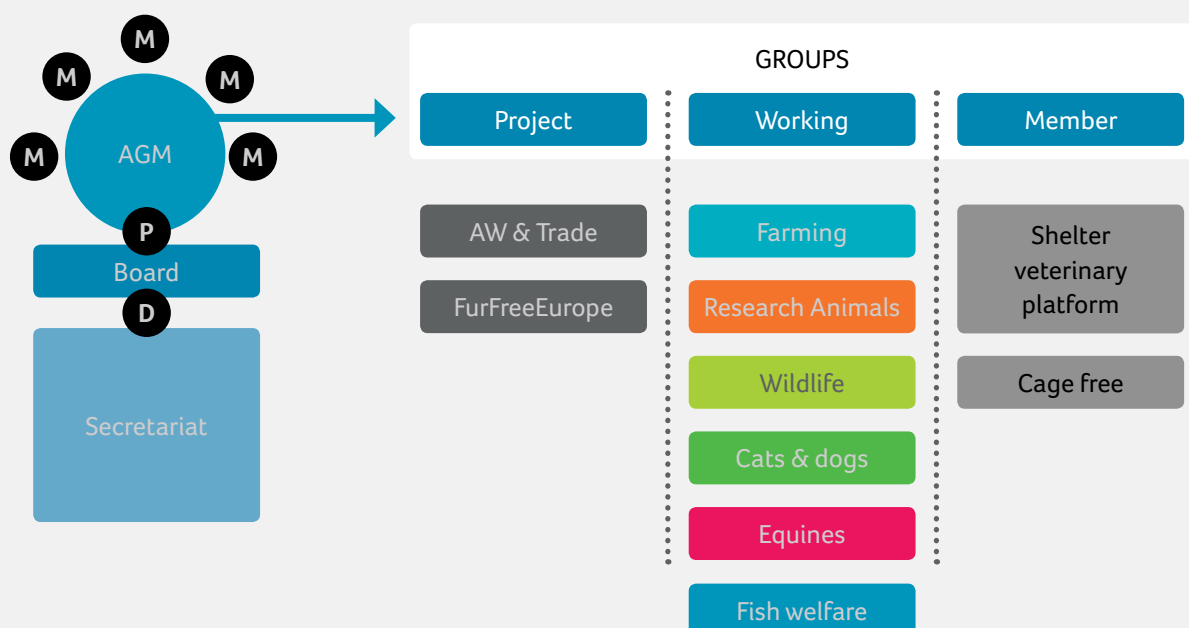
As a membership organisation, Eurogroup for Animals is democratically governed by its members and receives its mandate from them at the Annual General Assembly. The General Assembly is the organisation's supreme decision-making and oversight body which establishes its direction and adopts its Strategic Plan. It has sole power to amend the Articles of Association and elect members to the Board.

The General Assembly is composed of voting members from all member organisations. It delegates its authority to the Board which it elects. The Board is currently made up of representatives from 10 member organisations, together with an independent President and Treasurer.

In 2015, we gratefully thanked our board member from Deutscher Tierschutzbund, Frank Meuser, who has left the board after 2 years of loyal support. We also welcomed two new board members, Roberto Bennati (Lega Antivisezione) and Roman Kolar (Deutscher Tierschutzbund) while the other board members were confirmed in their position.

The Board, which meets four times a year, delegates operational authority to the Director who manages the secretariat of highly qualified staff with remarkable scientific, communications, management and financial skills. The secretariat acts within a framework of a 5 year strategy and an annual work plan.

To help deliver excellence and reflect its membership structure, Eurogroup for Animals runs thematic working groups which bring together experts from its members and staff to share knowledge, best practice and innovation and define the organisation's course of action. Those working groups are the place where Eurogroup for Animals' heart beats and are at the core of our operating model. They function under clear and transparent governance procedures and report to of the organisation's board. The diagram below illustrates our governance structure in 2015.







As an ethical, transparent and responsible organization Eurogroup for Animals and its staff are registered on the European Parliament's Transparency Register along with its sister organization EWLA.

Overall, 2015 has been a year marked by cohesion and trust among its membership, despite the difficult announcements about the organisation's future financial situation.

As in previous years, our combined General Assembly (AGM) and Annual Conference was a unique occasion for networking, exchange and inspiration while also offering the opportunity to acknowledge exceptional contributions to animal welfare in Europe through our award ceremony. Over the years, this event has evolved into the premier meeting place of the animal advocacy movement in Europe.

Unfortunately, our AGM was also the moment where our President shared some challenging news with the delegates about our future financial situation given the financial difficulties experienced by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, RSPCA. The RSPCA is indeed going through a harsh financial situation, involving a deep restructuring of the organisation and making it impossible to comply with its (financial) membership obligations in 2016 and 2017 towards Eurogroup for Animals. However, acknowledging the 35 years of consistent investments from the RSPCA in Eurogroup for Animals and as a reflection of our movement's solidarity and cohesion, the AGM unanimously decided to temporarily grant the RSPCA the exceptional status of 'Honorary Founding Member' and waive its financial obligations for the next two years.

As the biggest contributor to Eurogroup for Animals this situation was anticipated to lead to a serious financial gap in Eurogroup for Animals' 2016 budget. The President therefore appealed to the members' generosity and called for a one-off extra contribution to avoid or limit the extent of the restructuring needed in our secretariat.

It was heart-warming to witness the members' commitment, loyalty and trust in the strength of our movement and see that this extra effort helped us to reduce the anticipated 2016 deficit by half.

## FINANCIAL JUSTIFICATION

### RESULTS

As in previous years, our accounts have been audited by our independent auditor VRC. The organisation's 2015 income amounted to € 1,589,480 while the total expenditure represented € 1,608,869, showing hence a small deficit of € 19,388 mainly caused by fastened writing off of investments.

Eurogroup for Animals has experienced a decline of income in 2015, compared to 2014, of 7%. This decline resulted from the reduction of project funding.

Both Eurogroup for Animals' Board as the auditors are content that the organisation is operating in a well-controlled manner.

The below presented analytical accounts 2015 give insight in Eurogroup for Animals' project, programme and overhead expenditure.

### INCOME

Traditionally, Eurogroup for Animals has derived the bulk of its income from membership subscriptions, which in 2015 constituted 90% of our organisations' income. Together with the donations and financial and sundry income, this amount constitutes the unrestricted income of the organisation, invested in programs, a share of the projects and the organisation's overhead.

Although Eurogroup for Animals has three distinct membership categories with different fee calculations, membership subscriptions are mostly calculated as a percentage of our members' annual expenditure, resulting in growth or decline in income for Eurogroup for Animals as our members grow or shrink.

Financial challenges faced by some of our members explain why our income from membership fees has not significantly grown in 2015 compared to 2014, despite the growth in our membership base. It is anticipated that this trend will continue in the future. With a view to mitigate this risk and secure the organisation's financial resilience, the organisation has engaged since 2014 in a resource mobilisation strategy. Despite the challenges we have experienced in unfolding this new venture and without as of yet showing an impact on the volume of funds collected, our accounts indeed demonstrate, one year later a growing diversification of our sources of income, both in terms of sponsoring, donations and a more diversified membership base.

Eurogroup for Animals also continued to receive approximately 10% of its income in 2015 in support of specific projects.

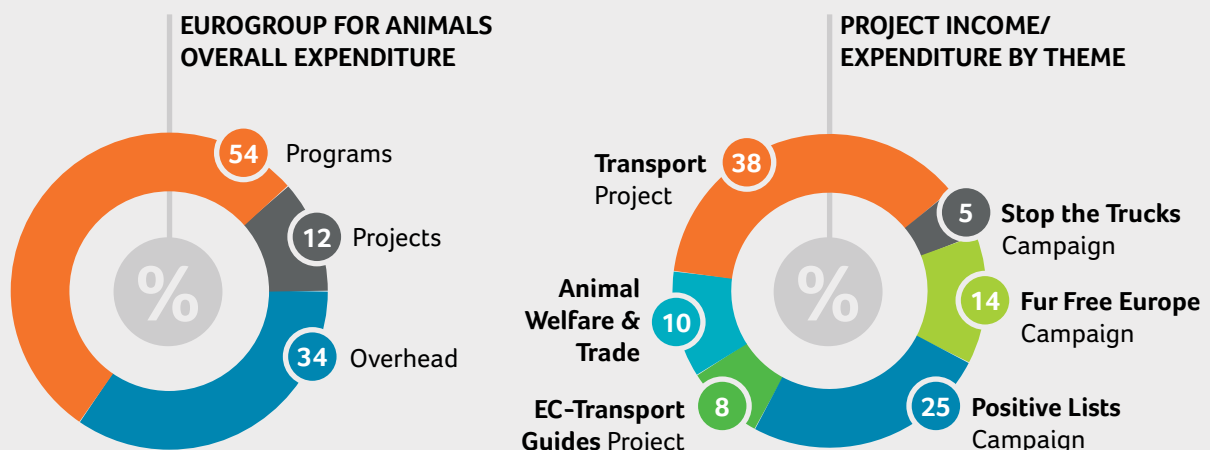
## EXPENDITURE

In 2015 the organisation introduced analytical bookkeeping to facilitate a further conversion from programs to a growing proportion of project-based work. This shows that in 2015, the organisation allocated 12% of its budget to projects and 55% to programmes with the remaining 33% going to overheads.

The organisation aims at growing its project body in the coming years in order sharpen its focus and result-oriented way of working in a financially and politically challenging environment.

Staff salary costs are an integral part of each project and programme and distinct items in the overhead section. Division of salary costs is based on monthly time registrations by all staff per project, programme or overhead item.

In 2015, our projects have been funded through sponsoring by our members and external partners and through investments from Eurogroup for Animals. This explains why project expenditure is slightly higher than project income. It is our aim to grow sponsoring from other sources in future.



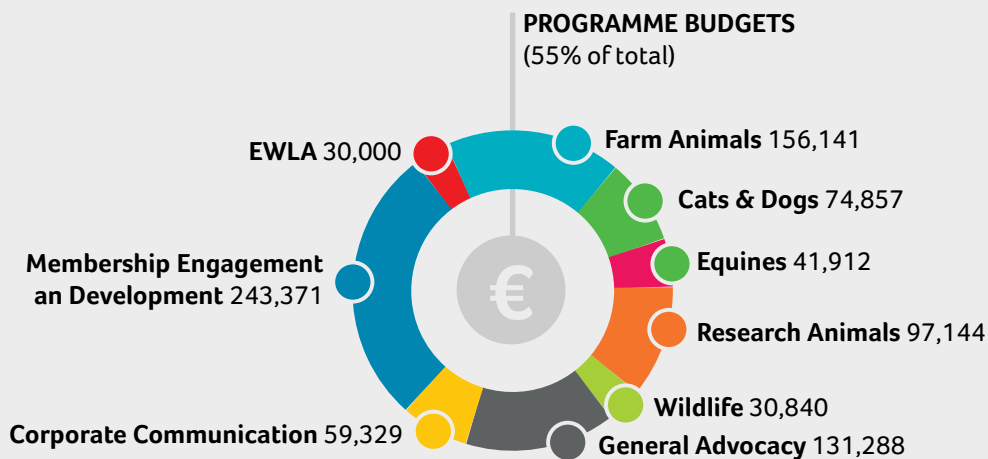
**FurFreeEurope:** In 2015 the Fur Free Alliance and Eurogroup for Animals invested in a joint project to ban fur farming at national level and avoid EU legislation to regulate fur farming. The project will continue in 2016 on a scaled-down basis. Budget involved salaries and communication costs.

**EC Transport Guides project:** Eurogroup participates in a 4 year EC funded project, spearheaded by Wageningen University to develop guidance for the better implementation of the Transport Regulation. Budget involves mainly salaries and some travel costs.

**The Positive List Campaign:** a joint project with several of Eurogroup for Animals' members, funded and co-led by AAP Animal Advocacy and Protection and Eurogroup for Animals. The project aims at establishing positive lists at national level to regulate the trade and keeping of exotic pets. The project mainly incurred costs on salaries, travel and communication.

**Transport campaign:** This project is funded by several of Eurogroup’s members (Gaia, Vier Pforten, WAP, Dyrenes beskyttelse, Dierenbescherming, RSPCA) investing in a joint campaign which was launched early 2016. Budgets involved primarily salaries and communication costs.

**International Trade & Animal Welfare:** In October 2015 Eurogroup re-started a project on International Trade & Animal Welfare funded by several members (Vier Pforten, Compassion in World Farming, Fondation Brigitte Bardot and Deutscher Tierschutzbund). The first phase of the project lasts till September 2016. Costs involved mainly the salary of an International Trade expert.



This chart reflects Eurogroup for Animal’s programmatic work in the 5 distinct policy fields: farm animals (including fish welfare), animals in science, cats and dogs, equines and wildlife. The EU’s primary competence in agriculture explains why Eurogroup for Animals has proportionately invested more in advocacy for farm animals. The investment in wildlife should be read in conjunction with the positive list project.

In 2015 the activities of Eurogroup for animals’ sister, EWLA have been transferred to Eurogroup for Animals’ programmes. The reflected € 30,000 were mainly needed to cover salary costs of the sole EWLA employee in the first quarter of 2015. Since May 2015 this last employee has been transferred to Eurogroup for Animals.

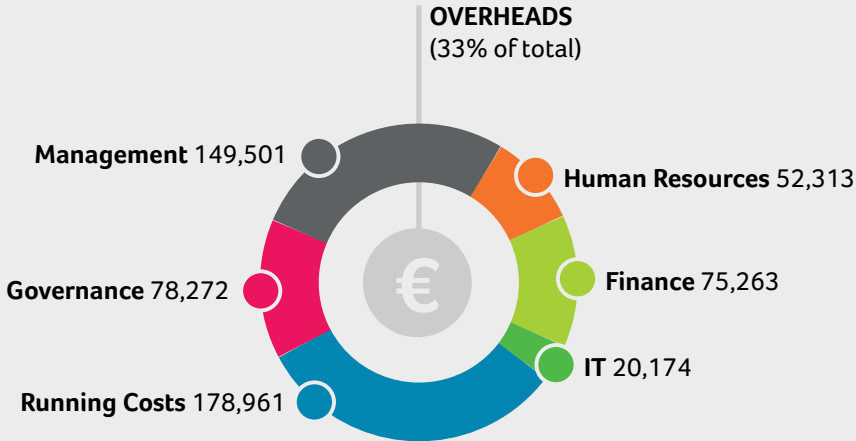
General advocacy reflects Eurogroup for Animals’ investment in running the Secretariat of the EP Intergroup for the Welfare and Conservation of Animals as well as more generally, staff’s involvement in horizontal advocacy initiatives such as the European Animal Welfare Strategy or the Animal Health law.

General communication reflects all activities in this field supporting the programmatic work in terms of internal and external outreach (weekly newsletter, website, social media, press relations, magazine, etc).

Membership engagement involves all Eurogroup for Animals activities with regard to ensuring the members involvement in the programmatic work as well as the contacts with potential new members. Costs involve member visits, drafting and implementing tailored plans, AGM and annual conference.

Programmatic costs mainly involves professional public affairs/expert salary expenditure and to a lesser extent of travel/accommodation, external assistance, meetings and office expenditure.

Eurogroup for Animals aims at keeping its overhead costs as lean as possible and aims at reducing these costs in the coming years even further. Overhead costs mainly involve general management of the organisation, board meetings (governance), office rent & office supplies (running costs), freelance finance, HR and IT support, all including salary costs of managing staff involved.





# WORD OF THANKS

## PARTNERSHIPS ARE AT THE CORE OF WHO WE ARE

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.

**This is our chance to thank all of you for your incredible support in 2015**, without which we would not have achieved what you have just read through in this annual report.

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, if you have not done so yet, 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.

For all of you who are on our side already, let's join the ranks and continue to deliver impact for animals in the cohesive spirit characterized by our, your organisation, Eurogroup for Animals.

# WE ARE SOCIAL



**THROUGH OUR MEMBERS,  
12 MILLION PEOPLE  
FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/eurogroupforanimals](http://www.facebook.com/eurogroupforanimals)

**Twitter:** [@Act4AnimalsEU](https://twitter.com/Act4AnimalsEU)

**LinkedIn:** [www.linkedin.com/company/eurogroup-for-animals](http://www.linkedin.com/company/eurogroup-for-animals)

**Google+:** [plus.google.com>Eurogroup for Animals](https://plus.google.com/Eurogroup+for+Animals)

**Pinterest:** [www.pinterest.com/Act4AnimalsEU](http://www.pinterest.com/Act4AnimalsEU)

**Scoopit:** [www.scoopit/animal-by-eurogroup-4-animals](http://www.scoopit/animal-by-eurogroup-4-animals)

**Youtube:** [youtube.com>Eurogroup for Animals](https://youtube.com/Eurogroup+for+Animals)





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