



EUROGROUP
FOR ANIMALS

**A EUROPE
THAT CARES
FOR ANIMALS**

OUR VISION

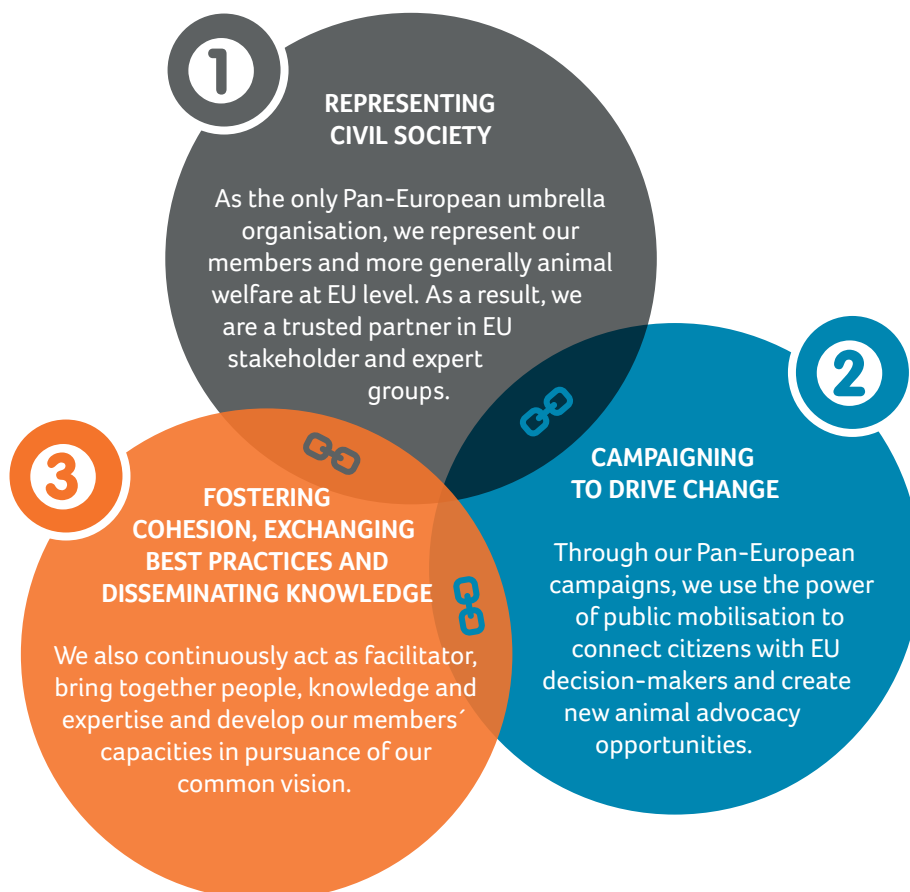
A EUROPE WHERE THE WELLBEING OF ALL ANIMALS IS ASSURED
AND WHERE THEY CAN EXPRESS THEIR NATURAL BEHAVIOUR

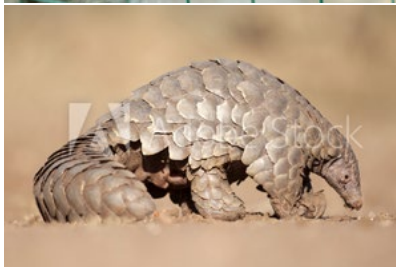
OUR MISSION

As the pan-European animal advocacy organisation, the primary focus of Eurogroup for Animals is to improve the well-being of as many animals as possible. We do this by achieving better legislation, standards, enforcement and societal attitudes, through a united community of animal protection organisations and via lawful means.

This mission has been translated into A TRIPLE ROLE. These roles are intertwined, mutually reinforce each other and reflect our advocacy approach.

Eurogroup for Animals operates in Europe – centred on the European Union, but also influences other strategic locations such as Norway, the Western Balkans, Switzerland and Ukraine. Given the increased impact of international dynamics on our work, we also collaborate with global partners.





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WHO WE ARE



With our new ten-year strategy, drawn-up with extensive member consultation, we will deliver a Europe that cares for animals, where their well-being is assured and where they experience a good life.

To achieve this, we influence EU decision makers and represent civil society, aiming to permanently anchor animal welfare as a central tenant within European policy. Eurogroup for Animals also coordinates state-of-the-art campaigns across the EU. Our network of member organisations can quickly and effectively activate a groundswell of civil society support.

WE BRING PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONS TOGETHER IN PURSUIT OF OUR SHARED CAUSE.

Our work includes among others furthering the prohibition for animal use in science and research, the fur industry, the entertainment industry, and the better protection of animals kept as pets, used for food or perceived as pests and much more. Our advocacy on farming is helping to change the EU's Common Agricultural Policy towards a Common Food Policy with animal welfare at its core.



BRITTA RIIS

President of Eurogroup for Animals
and CEO Dyrenes Beskyttelse, Denmark

“ Campaigning for improved animal welfare is a cause that unites people across Europe, and builds bridges over different political beliefs. Hand-in-hand with our members, Eurogroup for Animals spearheads this movement and helps achieve real, EU-wide successes. From national bans on wild animals in circuses to high-profile campaigns on live animal transport, impacting work carried out by us and our members helped to boost animal welfare across Europe in 2017.

Our new strategy, which will come into force during the year ahead, sharpens our vision and raises our ambition to deliver significant improvements for animals across Europe. It also opens up new directions to further explore the links between animal welfare, public health, wildlife management and the environment – it is important for us to show, that improved animal welfare can be part of a solution to these challenges so we can get animal welfare on top of the agenda in the EU.

As a member-driven organisation, our work is only possible with you. Thank you for taking an active part in helping us to reach our common goals.

“ 2017 was a year of successful beginnings in driving positive change for animals that took place against a background of ongoing political uncertainty across the EU.

In this turbulent environment I'm very proud to conclude that our extremely motivated team and our members have been able to deliver impactful results.

We started the year on a high, gaining strong support for the European Parliament resolution on equine welfare – a step which paves the way for crucially important EU guidelines.

We launched new projects to raise the bar for fish and chickens and convinced the European Court of Auditors to start the first ever animal welfare audit. At EU level, the year also saw the launch of dedicated actions for animals during transport, pig welfare and pets under the EU platform for animal welfare.

Meanwhile, our new report helped our members achieve a growing number of national bans on the use of wild animals in circuses, while we continued to foster the introduction of positive lists for the trade and keeping of exotic animals.

A real triumph was the handing over of more than 1 million signatures from our #StopTheTrucks campaign to European Commissioner Andriukaitis – the issue of live animal transport is now high on the EU political agenda and the European Parliament spurred to sharpen its legislative scrutiny.



REINEKE HAMELEERS

Director,
Eurogroup for Animals

Europe's ongoing political instability – as well as upcoming European elections and the rotation of the College of Commissioners – means we have our work cut out. Fish and chicken welfare, EU-wide bans on circus animals, and continuing our #EndPigPain campaign, are just some of the issues we're looking forward to working on.

Excitingly, 2017 was also the year we worked closely with our members to draft a new strategy containing our vision for the next ten years. It will be incredibly motivating to make the journey ahead together as part of a growing and strengthening animal advocacy movement.

Thank you for your strong support and teamwork.

ACHIEVING RESULTS FOR ANIMALS





INFLUENCING THE EUROPEAN UNION

WE INFLUENCE POLICY AT EU LEVEL

We work hard to build constructive relationships with the European Commission, Parliament and Council, directly influencing the policies that will improve animal welfare across the EU and deliver our strategic goals.

This year has seen extensive advocacy work with MEPs through the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals, close ties strengthened with national governments across the EU, while we continued to attend the 20 expert consultative bodies we belong to in the European Commission.



WORKING WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals – for whom we manage the Secretariat – really helped drive forward animal welfare initiatives. The group held 12 meetings in Strasbourg, each followed by around 20 MEPs, and 6 side events on topics including exotic pets and cat and dog population management. EU Commissioner for Health and Food safety, Vytenis Andriukaitis, spoke at Intergroup meetings twice in 2017 – a first for the group.

On transporting live animals outside the EU, 223 MEPs from all parties supported a temporary Committee of Inquiry to investigate alleged contraventions of the EU's animal transport regulation. It was disappointing to see the Parliament's Conference of Presidents eventually opt for a less costly solution – an implementation report on animal transport. However, we believe this enhanced legislative scrutiny will increase pressure to improve the appalling situation on the ground.



of the Parliament
supported a
parliamentary inquiry on
live animal transport

113 MEPs are members
of the Intergroup

20 MEPs per month and
12 animal welfare Intergroup sessions



“A big thanks to members of the Intergroup who proactively work for the improvement of animal welfare in the EU – your help is fundamental,”

Andreas Erler, Senior Political Adviser

WORKING WITH MEMBER STATES

2017 saw the first meetings of the new EU Platform on Animal Welfare. We welcomed the platform's work on live animal transport through a dedicated sub group, however we were concerned that the Commission did not intend to form sub groups on other animal welfare topics.

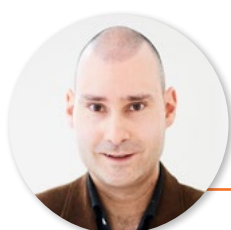
We therefore reached out to EU countries to explore the idea of forming Member State-led sub-groups to ensure the Platform achieves results. This led to the formation of two Commission-approved 'informal' sub groups on the illegal trade in dogs and cats, and on combating ignorance on owning horses, donkeys and mules.

Eurogroup for Animals also worked with Sweden on pig welfare. As a result, in December 2017, a new sub group on pig welfare was announced.

Throughout the year, the privileged relationships we developed with the Member States' Permanent Representations and Veterinary Attachés allow us to effectively influence the Council from the front row.

MAKING THE BEST OF BREXIT FOR ANIMALS

2017 saw the Brexit process begin as the British government invoked Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union. The Brexit & Animals Taskforce (our UK-based member organisations and our team in Brussels) continued to work on ensuring that existing animal welfare law within Great Britain & Northern Ireland would be protected, and where possible to maximise opportunities to go further.



“Although the European Elections in 2019 may seem like a long way off, 2018 will be key in determining how they will impact our work during the next term – whether we will have a Commission and a Parliament that prioritise animal welfare or not. Influencing this process and anchoring animal welfare in the programmes of the European parties will therefore be key for me in 2018.”

Joe Moran, Political Adviser

IN 2018...



The Brexit Taskforce will begin to address the long-term relationship between the EU and the UK, and will look at how improvements in one territory could drive improvements in the other.

EU sub groups on illegal trade in cats and dogs, and on equine ownership, will begin their work.

We will work hard to secure strong animal welfare pledges from EU political parties in anticipation of the 2019 European Parliament elections.

14

Member States supported the position paper on pets in the Council of the EU

4

subgroups of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare confirmed on key topics for Eurogroup for Animals

3

successful meetings of the Brexit & Animals Taskforce

A white chicken with a prominent red comb and wattle stands in the center of the frame. It is positioned in front of a large, translucent, grid-like structure that appears to be the roof of a modern farm building. The background is slightly blurred, showing other chickens and farm equipment. The overall lighting is bright and natural.

FARM ANIMALS LIVING A GOOD LIFE

High farm animal welfare standards are a key priority for European citizens. But in the face of rising global demand for meat and dairy, and the EU's export-focused policy which encourages live animal transport, animal welfare is increasingly paying the price. With a million of supporters, 2017 saw the highly successful finale of the #StopTheTrucks campaign, and the launch of the EndPigPain campaign. We also started work on a new but increasingly important topic - fish welfare.

#STOPHETRUCKS FINALE

In May 2017 we brought our flagship campaign #StopTheTrucks to its finale with the support of over 1 million EU citizens. A key moment was the release of a heart-breaking investigation on live animal export in March, which shocked the public as well as MEPs. September saw us and our member organisations officially hand over the petition to the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Vytenis Andriukaitis. The Commissioner immediately announced the set-up of a sub-group dedicated to live transport within the EU Animal Welfare Platform.



The situation for animals in transit is becoming increasingly urgent as ever-more animals are being transported outside the EU. We will continue to work on this issue to make sure that significant and positive changes are achieved.

1,000,000+

signatures for #StopTheTrucks

ANIMAL WELFARE IN THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP)

In 2017 we started proactively working with our member organisations and other Brussels-based organisations on the CAP post-2020. In mid-2018 the European Commission will publish a new legislative proposal: After years of silence, this will be the first new piece of legislation affecting the welfare of farmed animals in the EU. The upcoming CAP reform should serve as an opportunity for the European Commission to make farming more sustainable and friendlier for animals.



“As long as this crisis maintains, we will stay focused on improving the conditions for animals transported alive both across and from the EU, and we will also work on alternatives to this trade,”

Francesca Porta, Farm Animals Programme Officer

258,000

EU citizens out of 322,219 supported Eurogroup for Animals' views on the CAP post 2020

In 2017 the European Commission launched a public consultation on the future of the CAP. Eurogroup for Animals' views were echoed by over 258,000 out of 322,219 respondents: Improving animal welfare and sustainability should be one of the main objectives of the future CAP. Moreover, in 2016 94% of EU citizens called for better welfare for farmed animals (Eurobarometer, 2016), and the CAP, which accounts for approximately 40% of the EU's taxpayers' payments, should mirror citizens' expectations.

IN 2018...



In 2018 we will work towards delivering concrete results for the welfare of broiler chickens and laying hens across Europe. It is also a key year for the Common Agricultural Policy and we are working closely with the European Commission and Parliament to include animal welfare in the new legislative proposal. Transport will stay a priority and in 2018 we will continue our fight towards a ban on live animal exports outside the EU which should go hand in hand with reducing transport duration.

Meeting with the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Vytenis Andriukaitis on live animal transport.

7 new Commission audits on animal welfare during transport

1 official Animal Welfare platform subgroup on live transport



EndPigPain

The EU rears approximately 250 million pigs each year, generally in intensive conditions and largely flouting minimum legal requirements for animal welfare. Moreover, 77 million piglets a year are still surgically castrated, mostly without any pain relief, even though more humane alternatives exist.

This situation required urgent action, and therefore in May we launched our third flagship campaign – EndPigPain – calling for better lives for pigs and an end to all pig mutilations.

We now have over 500,000 signatures to End Pig Pain from citizens worldwide, asking the EU and its Member States to take action for pigs. We are working with our members to reach the 1 million signatures mark.

END PIG PAIN EXHIBITION IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

In September we held a photo exhibition in the Parliament in Strasbourg featuring 26 high-impact professional photographs illustrating industrial pig production in the EU, its impact on animal welfare, and alternative models of production.

The week-long exhibition, co-organised with our Italian member LAV, the Intergroup for the Welfare and Conservation of Animals, and Jeppe Kofod MEP, was accompanied by a virtual reality experience showing terrible conditions on Italian pig farms. The exhibition was attended by Commissioner Andriukaitis, who also tried out the virtual reality experience. In December, the Commissioner announced that pig welfare would be one of the topics of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare. We will play a prominent role in making sure the platform delivers concrete results.

20+ MEPs signed and publicly supported EndPigPain at our Strasbourg exhibition

Commissioner Andriukaitis announced the creation of a dedicated pig welfare sub-group within the EU Animal Welfare Platform

3 written questions tabled by MEPs to the European Commission on piglet mutilations and pig welfare legislation

500,000*
SIGNATURES
FOR END PIG PAIN

* status at end of 2017



“Working closely with our members and my colleagues on our flagship campaign EndPigPain, and witnessing their commitment to improving the lives of millions of pigs in Europe, made me realise once again, how strong our movement is when we work together. This campaign has been an incredible learning experience and it reinforced my sense of belonging to a community of extraordinary, passionate animal advocates.”

Elena Nalon, Farm Animals Programme Leader





CHICKEN WELFARE

2017 saw us receive our second grant from the Open Philanthropy Project, allowing us to dedicate much-needed resources to chicken welfare. The EU rears 330 million laying hens and slaughters 7 billion broiler chickens every year. 220 million laying hens are kept in so-called enriched cages, deprived of most of their basic needs, while broiler chickens are genetically selected to grow so fast that their heart, lungs, and limbs cannot keep up, causing their short lives to be full of pain and disease.

Consumers are already demanding change and the market is diversifying, but policy makers are lagging behind. We are working with our members and with external coalitions to improve the impact of corporate campaigns for cage-free egg farming and higher welfare broiler chicken production. We intend to push the EU to phase out cages and to produce good practice guidelines on cage-free egg production. We will also lobby to obtain better enforcement of existing broiler welfare legislation and mandatory method of production labelling for chicken meat, and will create the foundations for a revision of current chicken welfare legislation.



IN 2018...

We will participate in the “End the Cage Age” European citizens’ initiative in partnership with CIWF, helping to collect at least 1 million certified signatures from EU citizens calling on the European Commission to phase out all cages for farmed animals.

PROTECTING FARMED RABBITS

The EU rears more than 340 million rabbits for slaughter every year, kept almost exclusively in barren wire cages, totally unable to express normal behaviour. In 2017 we lobbied, alongside Compassion in World Farming, to improve their conditions and we obtained a huge success with Parliament’s adoption of MEP Stefan Eck’s own initiative report on minimum standards for the protection of farmed rabbits. The report paves the way for guidelines on good practice, the publication of a Commission Recommendation on rabbit health, welfare and housing, and eventually a Commission legislative proposal.

PUTTING FISH WELFARE ON THE MAP

Living beneath the waters, fish are often out-of-sight, out-of-mind. Eurogroup for Animals is now helping to bring fish welfare to the forefront. In 2017 we began researching and mapping the political and market landscape. We developed a strategy for our advocacy work and to support our members in campaigning on fish welfare.

We took part in a fish-focused meeting of the European Parliament’s Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals. Shortly after, we secured amendments to a parliamentary resolution giving special protection to whistleblowers from the aquaculture and fisheries sectors. This has led to the European Commission making legislative proposals.

In November 2017, the Commission took a major step forward by publishing a detailed study of fish welfare during transport and at slaughter in the EU aquaculture industry. Our immediate comment was widely published, and we worked with MEPs to query the limitations of the study where it had left out key issues.

We also gave grants to 10 of our member organisations to enable them to pursue their own fish welfare campaigns and advocacy projects. Together with Compassion in World Farming we commissioned an EU-wide survey of public perceptions on fish welfare to help inform future advocacy and awareness-raising activities.

IN 2018...



Our political advocacy will follow the Commission's welfare in aquaculture study as it becomes recommendations to the Parliament and Council. To influence these, we will publish the first ever reference report on fish welfare in the EU and will gather the EU political elite in the first ever political fish welfare event.

We have identified opportunities throughout the farm animal welfare regulatory framework, where regulations are applicable to fish and amendments are required to make them implementable. Top of this list is making the EU's slaughter regulation implementable with regards to fish.

We will also develop a communications toolkit for our member organisations to help their campaigning activities.



“It's a really exciting time for fish welfare in Europe. The evidence has moved on from pain perception and sentience in fish to the emergence of detailed knowledge about different species. The EU has relevant regulatory frameworks in place, and Eurogroup for Animals is in the right place to inform and influence the policy process to protect fish.”

Douglas Waley, Fish Welfare
Programme Leader

OUR MEMBERS AS OF JUNE 2018

NEW MEMBERS IN 2017

AVATMA: Representing hundreds of vets across Spain, AVATMA denounces any cultural tradition that involves animal suffering, including bullfighting, and the mistreatment of animals.

C'Est Assez: aims to fight the capture and killing of cetaceans worldwide, and raise awareness about conditions in dolphin parks in France and Europe.

FAADA: promotes respect for animals in the social, educational and legal fields in Spain, aiming to raise awareness of the impact our daily habits have on animals. It encourages people to make changes that can reduce that suffering and lead to a harmonious coexistence with animals.

Ippohesis: promotes the protection of equines in Greece. It runs awareness-raising campaigns and works to ensure that EU legislation is incorporated into national legislation. It also rescues abandoned or abused equines and re-homes them.

Loomus: stands up for animals used in agriculture, animal testing, the entertainment industry and fur production in Estonia. Its goals are to increase animal-friendly thinking, behaviour and consumption and to shape animal protection policy.

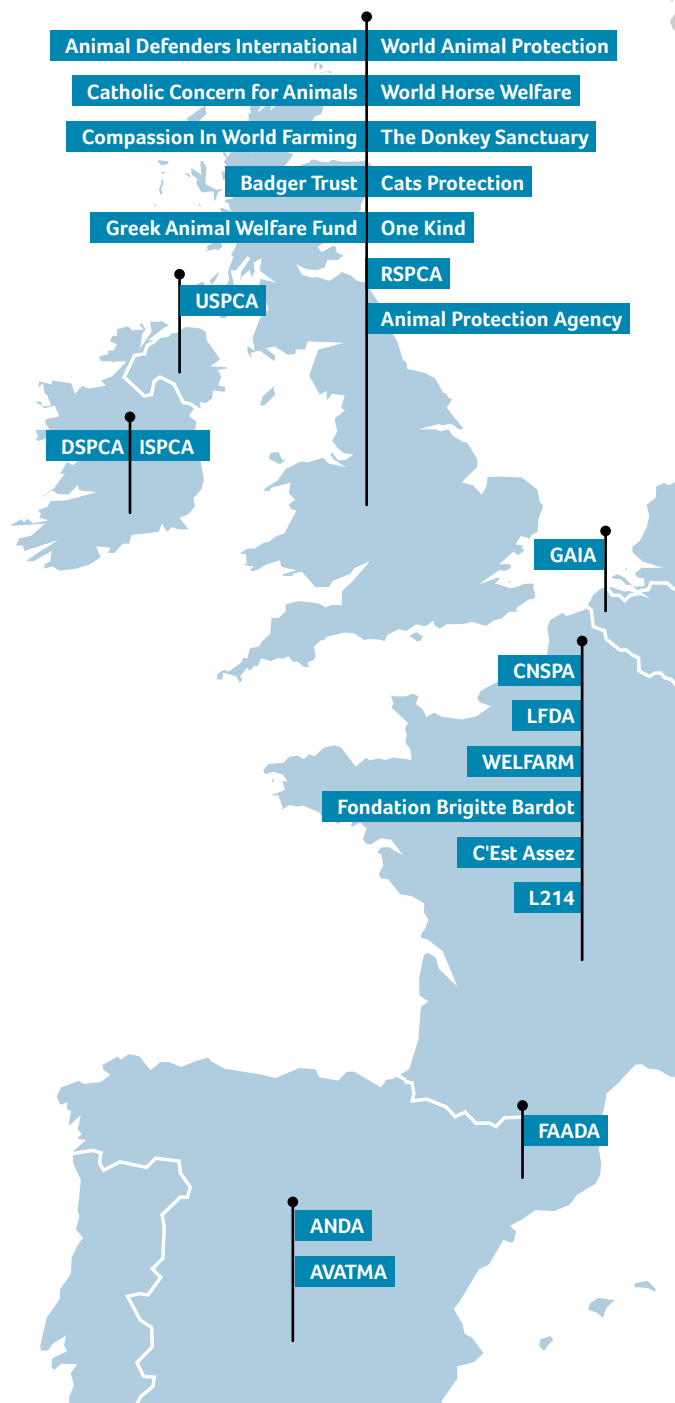
Luonto Litto: The Wolf Action Group of the Finnish Nature League strives to spread factual information about the wolf as a social and family-oriented animal, to reduce unnecessary fear and hatred towards wolves in Finland and Europe, to end government-licensed hunting of wolves and to ensure the use of non-lethal alternatives.

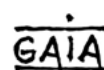
Sea First Foundation: aims to raise awareness about the degradation of oceans and its effect on humans, animals and the environment, and to denounce over-fishing.



“People working for the animals have a special bond. My job is to make sure that we, members and Eurogroup for Animals, make the best out of it and use it out there. For them.”

Elise Fleury, Membership and Communications Officer







WILD ANIMALS

Wild animals continue to be in danger across Europe. Kept as exotic pets, in circuses or living in the wild, many wild animals face threats. With our work on the illegal trade in wildlife, fighting for better conditions for wild animals in captivity, or moving forward on humane ways to manage wildlife, we are taking significant steps to improve their welfare, but much work remains to be done.

‘THINK POSITIVE’

From monkeys and parakeets to iguanas and snakes, exotic pets are a worrying and fast-growing fashion in Europe. However, most exotic species respond poorly to captivity. One of the best ways to legislatively protect the welfare of exotic pets is through a Positive List of allowed species – like in Belgium and the Netherlands.

This year our ‘Think Positive’ campaign focused on Scotland, Finland, Malta, Croatia, Lithuania and Latvia. Coordinated with AAP Animal Advocacy and Protection, we raised support for Positive Lists at national and EU level. We held a successful conference in the European Parliament, co-hosted by the Maltese Presidency of the EU Council and the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals. At the event, EU Commissioner Karmenu Vella, underlined that nothing prevents Member States from adopting Positive Lists to regulate the exotic pet trade.

MANAGING WILDLIFE HUMANELY

In 2017 we established a new member group to foster the exchange of best-practices across Europe and disseminate knowledge on non-lethal methods to manage wildlife.

The year also saw a pilot project on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) win approval from the European Parliament and €500 000 set aside from the EU budget.

FUR FARMING

Raccoon dogs are farmed for their fur in Europe, but in 2017 we succeeded in getting this invasive species added to the "List of Invasive Alien Species of Union Concern". Any species on this list cannot be imported, sold, kept, transported, bred or released – a major success for their welfare and for preserving Europe's biodiversity. Our lobbying efforts alongside our members, defeated pressure from the fur industry to allow raccoon dog farming to continue.

WILD ANIMALS IN CIRCUSES

Our 2017 Circuses report revealed more than 300 incidents involving 600+ wild animals as well as members of the public have occurred in circuses across the EU since 1996. The use of wild animals in circuses is a problem for animal welfare and public safety.

In 2017 Romania and Ireland adopted a total ban on wild animals in circuses bringing the total to 12 EU countries. 20 EU countries restrict their use. In March, we held a conference at the European Parliament co-hosted by Marlène Mizzi MEP and the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals. Our message was public support for wild animals in circuses shows is long gone – the Commission must act to ban this outmoded and unethical entertainment across the EU.

€500,000

allocated to a pilot project on the humane management of invasive alien species

12

EU countries have banned wild animals in circuses. 20 EU countries restrict their use



“Invasive alien species, zoonotic diseases, and culling farm animals to prevent the spread of illness are all direct consequences of absent or inadequate laws and regulations on the exotic pet trade.”

Ilaria Di Silvestre, Wildlife Programme Leader

ZOO ANIMALS

In 2017 the Commission evaluated the EU Zoos Directive. Alongside our members, we drew up a position paper urging the Commission to adopt measures to improve animal welfare in zoos.

We also lobbied the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) – via our membership of the Species Survival Network (SSN) – to promote the conservation of endangered species and improve the welfare of traded animals.

As co-chair of the Animals in Captivity working group of SSN, we participated in the 69th CITES Standing Committee meeting via two working groups on the disposal of confiscated animals and on captive breeding of endangered species. At EU level, we welcomed the publication of EU guidance on the ivory trade, which we actively participated in. We also continued to support the work of the cross-party MEPs for Wildlife group, as part of an alliance of international NGOs.

IN 2018...



We will influence the pilot project on the humane management of invasive alien species, and continue to highlight the need to ensure the welfare of confiscated animals and financial support for rescue centres. We will also continue to represent our members' priorities in CITES committees and to push for the adoption of an EU-wide ban on the ivory trade and on the use of wild animals in circuses. We will also work to protect European large carnivores, like wolves and bears, by developing best practices for achieving coexistence with people.

EQUINES

Illegal trading, irresponsible breeding and poor transport conditions are just some of the threats facing equines in Europe. We are working closely with the European institutions to establish guidelines - and eventually rules - that protect horses, donkeys and mules. We also want to ensure good conditions for dairy donkeys and see an end to pregnant mare hormone imports in Europe.

BETTER EQUINE WELFARE

In March 2017, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the responsible ownership and care of horses, donkeys and mules. We worked closely with Julie Girling MEP, as well as with the industry, to achieve this result. The resolution is based on an investigation into the equine sector in the EU we carried out jointly with World Horse Welfare in 2015, "Removing the Blinkers". The guidelines contained in the resolution will be used by sectors working with equines and national governments, and they should eventually help inform legislative proposals.

Last year we continued our work with national governments in the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden and Germany on an EU level action to improve equine welfare. The five countries called on the European Commission to promote the responsible ownership and care of equines. Denmark presented a paper containing recommendations on keeping, caring for, training and using horses, donkeys and mules.

Thanks to the our report and and subsequent EU Parliament resolution, we helped further the work of national governments which ultimately led to the formation of a subgroup within the EU Animal Welfare Platform.



“Equine welfare is a fascinating but complex world. Our members’ expertise is crucial to develop EU guidance on what responsible ownership implies for these animals. Working with them is a great learning experience.”

Giulia Tarsitano, Programme Officer Companion Animals



DAIRY DONKEYS

For the first time ever, in October 2017 the Animal Welfare Intergroup debated the welfare of dairy donkeys and good animal management guidelines drawn-up by a stakeholder platform. Researchers from the University of Milan and The Donkey Sanctuary coordinated the stakeholder platform – with representatives from public authorities, civil society, farmers, industry and academics. Rich in minerals and low in fat, demand for donkey milk has risen, leading to a growing number of donkey dairy farms in Europe.

90% of MEPs voted for a resolution on the responsible ownership and care of horses, donkeys and their hybrids.

HORSE HORMONES

Alongside the Equine Working Group, we worked on raising awareness across the EU about the animal welfare implications of using PMSG – a hormone extracted from pregnant mares in South America using inhumane methods. PMSG is used by pig rears to unnaturally increase fertility rates in sows. We took part in national campaigns led by our members to ban PMSG imports in the EU .

IN 2018...



The equine subgroup established within the EU Animal Welfare Platform will produce the first EU guidance documents for the responsible ownership of horses and donkeys endorsed by 9 Member States.



PROTECTING DOGS AND CATS

PUSHING THE EU TO LEAD ON THE HUMANE MANAGEMENT OF STRAYS

The EU has the power and influence needed to put an end to the undertaking of extreme measures against stray dogs and feral cats. To support our members' field projects improving the lives of millions of strays across Europe, Eurogroup for Animals encourages the EU institutions to take the lead and advocates for the implementation of humane methods. In 2017 we brought together the European Parliament, the Maltese Presidency of the Council, the Intergroup and the S&D Parliamentary Group at the conference "From culling to care". The event outlined policy solutions at EU level to stop the blanket culling of stray animals which happens in some EU countries - notably Romania. The discussion with participants and MEPs focused on how to foster the use of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) or International Companion Animal Management coalition guidelines for the humane management of stray animal populations.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR THE ILLEGAL TRADE IN DOGS & CATS

2017 was a seminal year for our work on fighting the illegal trade of dogs and cats. For 10 - 15 years, millions of dogs have been illegally moved and sold across the EU under the auspices of the pet passport. In the last few years we have seen the nascent growth of an illegal trade in cats too.

However, this system was never designed for commercial gain. Pet passports were designed to ease moving home cross-border with your dog or cat, or going on holiday. Yet the system has been routinely abused on an industrial scale purely for commercial greed, has propped up horrific breeding practices and has led to millions of sick, abused, poorly socialised and abandoned animals.



100+ participants attended our conference *From Culling to Care*

Building upon our 2015–2016 Protect Our Pets campaign, which led to the European Parliament’s Resolution on stopping this trade, 2017 saw a position paper presented in the Council of the EU on behalf of the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden and Germany. This paper was conceived thanks to extensive collaboration between Eurogroup for Animals and these five Member States, and ultimately it led to the European Commission agreeing to the formation of a subgroup within the EU Animal Welfare Platform to take the paper’s conclusions forward. Together with our members we have started developing the concept and tools for a new EU wide campaign on companion animals. This will give a voice to the many Europeans calling for better welfare of cats and dogs. Spurred on by the large EU community of pet lovers, we will push EU institutions to take action.

IN 2018...



With the work that will follow in 2018, we are now seeing the beginning of the end in the despicable, illegal trade of dogs and cats.

The Netherlands will lead a coalition of several Member States for improving the welfare and health of pets involved in trade. This means that, for the first time, EU countries are coming together to develop effective cross-border traceability of individual animals and explore solutions to stop illegal trade. Within this context, Eurogroup for Animals will also work for the adoption of guidelines for the protection of cats and dogs from birth to death, and advocate for obtaining the EU Commission’s support for a dissemination strategy.

2018 will also open new opportunities to tackle the online selling of pets by unscrupulous breeders and dealers. Eurogroup for Animals has initiated dialogue with key stakeholders in the area of consumer protection to ensure relevant legislation is applied to the online selling/purchasing of pets.

Our campaign “EU, Care for Our Companions” will engage EU citizens in supporting our call to better protect our pets.



“My highlight of the year was to see the growing interest of Member States in the illegal pet trade within the EU Animal welfare Platform. It reinforced my belief that better legal protection for pets could soon be achieved across the EU.”

Giulia Tarsitano, Programme Officer
Companion Animals



ANIMALS IN SCIENCE

Every year more than 11 million animals are used in research, testing and education across the EU. We want to phase out the use of laboratory animals and move towards ethical science. While some Member States are adopting phase-outs, progress is slow. We urge the EU to establish a strategy with a clear timeline for a transition to non-animal science.

In 2017 the Commission reviewed progress on implementing the laboratory animals Directive. Reflecting our concerns, the Commission urged Member States to develop strategies to encourage the uptake of non-animal methods and keep up-to-date with new approaches.

The government of the Brussels Region in Belgium committed to reducing the use of animals in research, education and testing by 30% by 2025, following the earlier Dutch example. We are working with our members to ensure more initiatives like this come into force.

Alongside other animal advocacy groups we influenced the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) on using alternatives to animal testing. In 2017, the ECHA released its third report on alternatives which shows new non-animal approaches, acknowledges the fallibility of animal tests and moves away from the animal test gold standard paradigm.

Overall, these achievements show a growing acceptance among the EU regulatory authorities of a non-animal approach to testing, benefiting human and animal health, and the environment.

Present in 5 Commission expert groups and 2 Committees of the European Chemical Agency (ECHA)

2 members of 1 international council and board member of 1 European platform for the promotion of alternatives to animal testing and experimentation.



“Animal-free science is not only possible but necessary to guarantee ethical progress, scientific innovation, and improvements in healthcare.”

Luísa Bastos, Animals in Science Programme Leader

IN 2018...



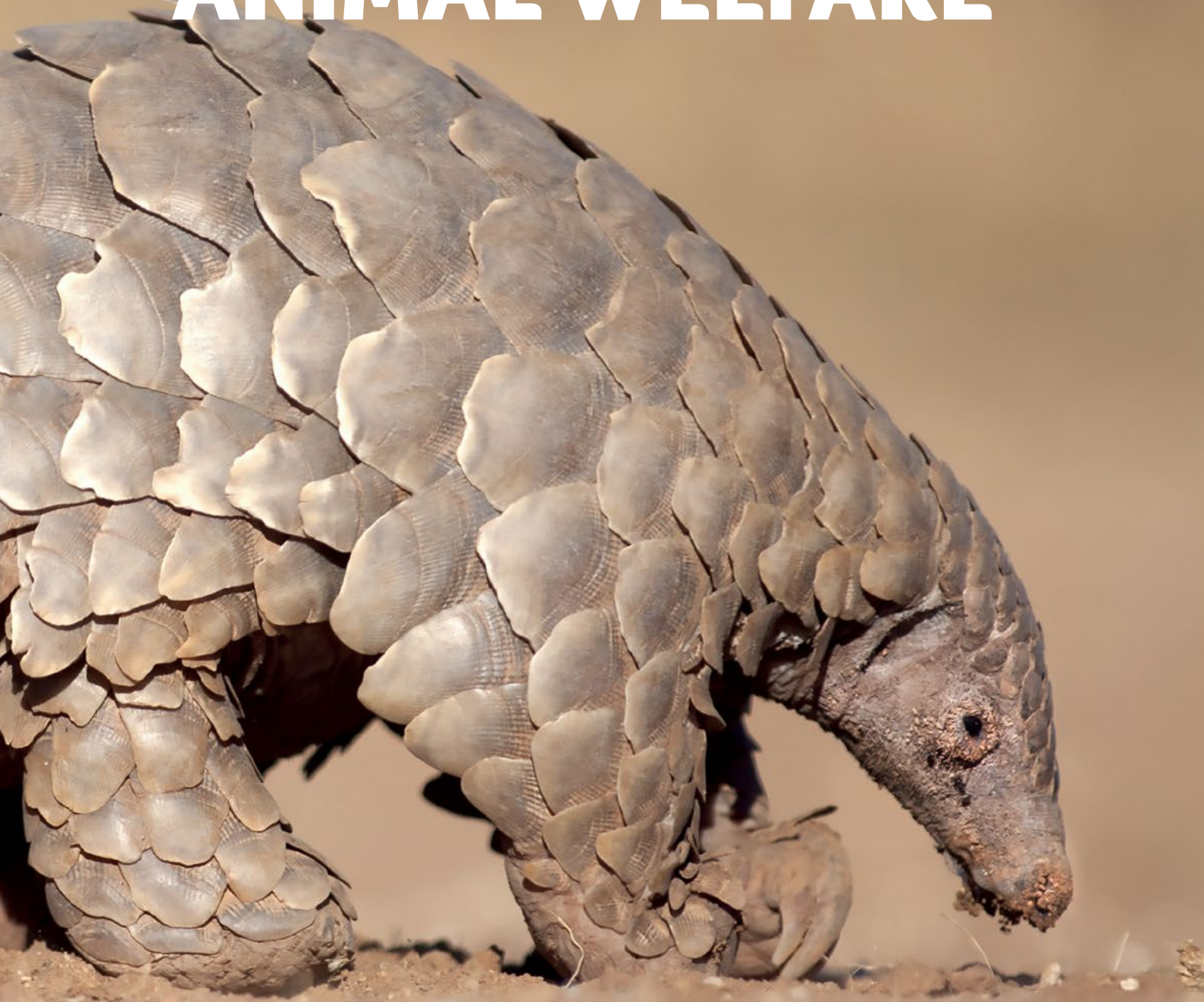
We will continue to ensure that scientific policy at EU and national level is inspired by innovative and ambitious examples of non-animal research and testing methods. We will also continue to push for a transition to non-animal research with a timeline for action.

We will strive for an ambitious implementation of the laboratory animals Directive, making sure that non-animal scientific expertise and animal advocacy are represented in the relevant national bodies. We will also ensure that Commission and Member States promote the development and uptake of non-animal methods, and discourage animal approaches with the same purpose.

Many European Universities have shifted to humane teaching methods, while others continue using animals where other methods exist. We will urge the Commission and Member States to promote a framework for an effective development and update of educational technologies and curricula that can accompany medical, veterinary and scientific progress without the use of animals.



TRADE AND ANIMAL WELFARE



Leveraging its market of 500 million consumers, the EU is currently negotiating at least 15 trade agreements. Trade liberalisation has a negative impact on animals outside the EU as it stimulates the production of animal-based products, and on animals within the EU as cheaper and poorer quality imports put pressure on EU producers and authorities not to improve existing standards. We are lobbying EU institutions and Member States to lessen this impact, as well as to push them to seize opportunities to promote animal welfare outside the EU.

In 2017 animal welfare climbed up the agenda in EU trade policy thanks to our relentless efforts. We drew-up 'model provisions' that can be inserted into free trade agreements to guarantee animal protection and presented them to trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström at a round table with representatives from the Commission, Parliament and Member States.

We also worked hard on raising awareness on the strong links between animal welfare and sustainable development by publishing a report on trade and sustainable development in EU free trade agreements.

Our article on the use of 'public morals' as a way of justifying trade restrictions based on animal welfare at the level of the World Trade Organisation was published in both trade and animal law journals, deepening the connection between animal welfare and trade communities.

TRADE EXPERTISE FOR MEMBERS

Since 2015 we have coordinated the 'trade and animal welfare project' with five member organisations (CIWF, Deutscher Tierschutzbund, Fondation Brigitte Bardot, RSPCA and Vier Pfoten). We are now ready to provide these organisations, and other interested members, with a one-day course on trade and animal welfare. The course covers technical aspects of international and EU trade policy and the links between these policies and animal protection.

9 Press releases

1 Event



“Trade policy cannot solve all the problems in the world, but we must fight to ensure it does not aggravate them!”

Stephanie Ghislain, Trade and Animal Welfare Project Leader

BETTER WORDED TRADE DEALS

We are monitoring ongoing trade negotiations, notably with Mercosur and Mexico, as well as future deals with Australia, New Zealand, Chile, Indonesia, Turkey and the UK by contributing to the work of the EU's Brexit Taskforce. We are also monitoring the EU-Ukraine free trade agreement to ensure that Ukraine keeps its commitment to align its animal welfare regulations with the EU's.

IN 2018...



We will use the model provisions we designed for trade agreements to protect animals in the negotiations with the UK, Chile, Indonesia, Australia, and New Zealand, while reinforcing our arguments to connect animal welfare with sustainable development.



LOOKING AHEAD

2018-2019

Here are the main battle-grounds for Eurogroup for Animals in 2018-2019. It will be a historic period for the EU and its Member States – including one soon-to-be non-member.



EP elections 23–26 May 2019
 Making the next 5 years count for animals
 705 new MEPs
 EU Platform for Animal Welfare
 13th Commission President
 New College of Commissioners
 Animal Welfare Intergroup



Friday 29 March 2019
 Transition period
 New partnership agreement
 Protecting existing animal welfare law
 Brexit & Animals Taskforce
 New trade agreement
 Veterinary border controls



Free trade agreements
 Model provisions
 'Trade & Sustainable Development' chapters
 Promoting animal welfare in 3rd countries
 Mercosur, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, Turkey, UK, Ukraine
 Domestic Advisory Groups



Fish welfare
 Aquaculture
 CAP reform
 Ending the cage age!
 Laying hens

Chickens raised for meat
 Ending pig pain!
 Live transport
 Slaughter



Responsible ownership & care
 Online pet sales
 Consumer protection
 PMSG – pregnant mare blood serum
 Feral cats
 Stray dogs
 Equines
 Dairy donkeys



Animal free science
 Protection of laboratory animals
 Non-animal research
 Animals in education
 Humane teaching methods
 Research on primates



Positive lists
 Wildlife trafficking
 CITES
 Rescue centres
 Humane management
 Coexistence with large carnivores
 Invasive animal species
 Animals in entertainment
 Circuses & dolphinarium



“It was excellent to end the year as a team with a shared understanding of the answers to the simple (but critical) questions for our work in 2018: what, why, when, who and how. And just as importantly to have an impressive list of achievements in 2017 to be proud of!”

Tim Robinson, Senior Programme Leader

REWARDING

POSITIVE ACTION

In 2017 we continued to recognize the exceptional contributions to animal welfare in Europe through our awards ceremony. Each year we present awards to the best campaign for animals, EU activities for animals, and for the best corporate behaviour for animal welfare.



2017 EG4A CAMPAIGN AWARD

FOUR PAWS for their campaign “40 Lives” against the use of down from birds that have been plucked alive or force-fed.



2017 EG4A CORPORATE AWARD

EDEKA Südwest Fleisch (Germany) for their overall contribution to animal welfare; and

Friland (Netherlands) for ensuring better animal welfare in the production of organic pigs.



2017 EU4ANIMALS AWARD

Marlene Mizzi MEP (S&D, MT) and **Stefan Eck** MEP (GUE/NGL, DE) for their extraordinary work in promoting animal welfare in the European Parliament.



HOW WE ARE GOVERNED

We are a membership organisation, and we are democratically governed by our members, who provide us with a mandate at our Annual General Assembly. The General Assembly is our supreme decision-making and oversight body, establishing our direction and adopting our Strategic Plan.

The Board is currently made up of representatives from 12 organisations, together with an independent President and Treasurer. It meets four times a year and delegates operational authority to the Director who manages the Eurogroup for Animals team. Our staff works within a framework provided by the strategy and an annual work plan.



“We started 2017 with an office move which allowed us to have a larger, more welcoming office for our members and guests with the added benefit of saving us money. I must also mention a successful and well attended Annual Event and AGM.”

Christine van Horen, Office & Events Manager

OUR BOARD



Britta Riis
President,
Dyrenes Beskyttelse (Denmark)



Philip Lymbery
Vice President, Compassion
in World Farming (UK)



Helmut Dungler
Board member
Vier Pfoten, (Austria)



Michel Vanderbosch
Board member
GAIA (Belgium)



David Bowles
Board member
RSPCA (UK)



Gemma Willemsen
Board member
Dierenbescherming
(Netherlands)



Roman Kolar
Board member
Deutscher Tierschutz
Bund (Germany)



Roberto Bennati
Board member
LAV (Italy)



Camilla Björkbom
Board member
Djurens Rätt (Sweden)



Elodie Gérôme Delgado
Board member
Fondation Brigitte Bardot
(France)



Sami Saynevirta
Board member
Animalia (Finland)



Lucien Bildgen
Board member
Lëtzebuurger Déiereschutzliga
(Luxemburg)



Chris Carey
Treasurer
(independent)

OUR FINANCES



“The highlight of my year has been improving the organisation’s financial reporting systems based on a new financial & bookkeeping software allowing us to do analytical reports.”

Salim Nazary, Finance Officer

INCOME

Our audited accounts, running from 1 January to 31 December 2017, show an income of €1,889,564 and a total expenditure of €1,864,564.

Traditionally, we have derived the bulk of our income from membership subscriptions, which in 2017 made up approximately 81% of our organisations’ income. We received approximately 17% of our income in 2017 in support of specific projects.

To mitigate risks and secure the organisation’s financial resilience, Eurogroup for Animals works in the framework of a three year a resource mobilisation strategy aimed at diversifying our income and strengthening our relationship with existing supporters. 2017 accounts demonstrate a growing diversification of our sources of income, in terms of project sponsoring, donations and a more diversified membership base. Overall, our income grew with 12% compared to 2016.

work programme, namely our general advocacy work, communications actions or our membership engagement and development program.

Our programmes and projects have been funded through a mix of sponsoring by our members, by the Open Philanthropy Project and through investments from Eurogroup for Animals’ unrestricted income. The two campaigns and the stepped up program sections on chicken and fish welfare explain why in 2017 the farm animals work continues to be the biggest area of spending for Eurogroup for Animals. This also mirrors the EU’s primary competence in farm animal welfare.

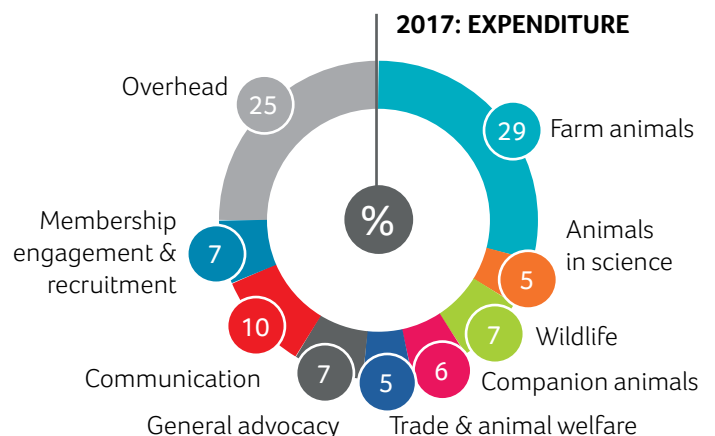
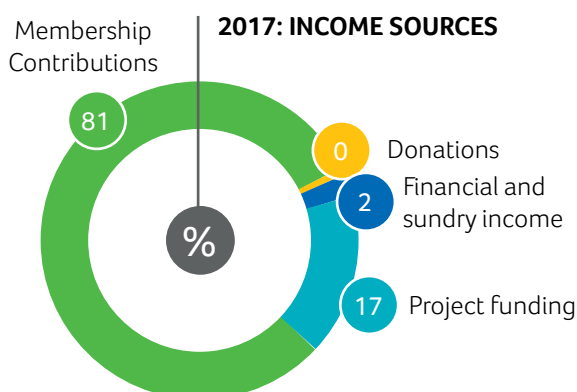
In 2017 Eurogroup for Animals continued its project on International Trade and Animal Welfare funded by our members – Vier Pfoten, CIVWF, Fondation Brigitte Bardot, RSPCA and Deutscher Tierschutzbund. The project is part of our general advocacy approach to create a favourable political environment, which builds the ground on which we base all our thematic advocacy work.

EXPENDITURE

Our work covers four policy fields – farm animals and fish welfare; animals in science; companion animals (cats, dogs and equines); and wildlife including fur. In each policy field, we are running our actions either as part of our programmatic approach, or as projects in well-limited time and cost, for example campaigns. We also run programmatic activities that benefit the entire

Programmatic and project costs mainly cover salaries, travel costs, external assistance and meeting costs.

Despite the organisation’s growth, we have managed to continue to reduce our overhead costs which in 2017 constituted 25% of our expenditure.



JOIN US AND HELP US

GO FURTHER

Animals across Europe continue to suffer and need our – and your – help. We need to attract more members, new funds and more backing to take our goals further. Join us and help us fight for a better future for all animals.

How? Visit our website to uncover the extent of animal suffering that continues today. Sign our petitions to show your support. Follow us on social media. Become a member or donate.



“With several new members joining us in 2017 and the exceptional support of the Open Philanthropy Project we feel stronger in delivering a lasting impact for animals, despite the political headwind.”

Sophie De Jonckheere, Communications & Development Manager

THANK YOU!

Our strength comes from our members, friends and partners – without you we could not achieve all we have done for animals so far. Together, our advocacy and campaigning activities improve the lives of animals and will continue to do so in the future.

We would like to thank you, our members and our donors, for your support that helps us achieve our animal welfare goals. Your financial contribution is crucial to our work, but so too is your advice, expertise and feedback. United, we can make a big impact.

Contact: Sophie De Jonckheere, Communications and Development Manager
s.dejonckheere@eurogroupforanimals.org

WE ARE SOCIAL



www.facebook.com/eurogroupforanimals



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



www.linkedin.com/company/eurogroup-for-animals



[youtube.com > Eurogroup for Animals](https://youtube.com/EurogroupforAnimals)



www.eurogroupforanimals.org



“A very important part of my work was to ensure that the successes of our members and the results of our work get the visibility they deserve in our social media channels.”

Emy De Nardi, Digital Communications Officer



EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS

Eurogroup for Animals

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