

**THEME**

**HOW MANY MORE LIVE TRANSPORT TRAGEDIES HAVE TO HAPPEN BEFORE SOMETHING CHANGES?**



**OBITUARY**

Heli Dungler,  
1963-2020

**JOINING FORCES**

To solve the wildlife  
rescue crisis in Europe

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

Follow our work  
on animal welfare

# 4

THEME:

How many more live transport tragedies have to happen before something changes?



# 6

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# 10

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To solve the  
wildlife rescue  
crisis in Europe

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## CONTENTS

3 EDITORIAL

4 **THEME**

6 **OBITUARY**

8 **ANIMAL NEWS  
IN EUROPE**

What happened in the past  
three months

10 **JOINING FORCES**

14 **MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE**

Follow our work on animal  
welfare

17 **GET TO KNOW US**

18 **OUR MEMBERS**

19 **SUPPORT US**

# EDITORIAL

2020 started with alarming developments. We've been shocked by the scale and devastation of the continuing Australian bushfires and their impact on animals. This natural disaster is not only a huge tragedy for the millions of animals who are suffering and dying, but also a clear sign of the state of emergency our planet is in. We are incredibly proud of our member organisations in Australia who are working day and night to support local vets and rescuers to try to help as many animals as possible. The big challenge will be to restore the natural habitat of the animals, and moreover, to tackle the root of the issues causing these unprecedented bushfires. Eurogroup for Animals will push hard to make sure the EU and Australia make strong commitments on working together on sustainable development and tackling climate change as part of the ongoing bilateral trade deal negotiations.

Then there was more tragic news when we learnt that Heli Dugler, our much beloved Board member and CEO of one of the biggest animal protection organisations in the world, FOUR PAWS, had passed away very suddenly at a young age. We are immensely saddened by this huge loss

for the movement and the animals. Heli was a great champion for animals and a unique character. We wanted to share his life story with you in this edition of the Magazine.

These two events made us sad, but also spurred us on. Every day is precious, and we must waste no time in working even harder to drive meaningful change for animals. There is fresh hope on the horizon for sure. At the end of last year, the Council adopted unprecedented animal welfare conclusions that called on the Commission to enact and update better legislation for animals. The new Commission has also expressed a strong commitment to tackle the climate crisis, which will involve a reform of livestock farming as well as measures to protect wild animals.

The animals around us play an essential role in our societies and natural environments, but tend to be forgotten or marginalised. In Heli's spirit, and together with all of you, we will make sure their voices are being heard in 2020 and beyond.

*Reineke Hameleers*  
CEO, Eurogroup for Animals



Reineke Hameleers  
CEO, Eurogroup for Animals

**EUROGROUP**  
**FOR ANIMALS**





## THEME

# HOW MANY MORE LIVE TRANSPORT TRAGEDIES HAVE TO HAPPEN BEFORE SOMETHING CHANGES?

**November 2019 saw a dreadful end for nearly 14,000 sheep when the Queen Hind, a Romanian cargo vessel, overturned en route to Saudi Arabia. As shown by an investigation by Animals International, no measures for dealing with such an event were in place. It was only thanks to the efforts of FOUR PAWS and Romania-based animal welfare organization ARCA that 254 of the sheep survived the ordeal, some still being pulled from the capsized hulk five days after the disaster.**

This came just a few months after Romania had made headlines by exporting 70,000 sheep to the Persian Gulf in extremely high temperatures, despite the European Commission urging authorities not to allow the vessel to leave. Animals International presented evidence of “piles of dead sheep” at the unloading point in Kuwait, as well as surviving sheep being beaten as they disembarked in temperatures of more than 40°C.

This was not a one-off. Investigations in previous years into these annual journeys of sheep to the Gulf for the Festival of Sacrifice saw heat and humidity combinations reach levels that caused heat stroke, resulting in sheep literally cooking alive in the holds of ships. Animals Australia found animals on vessels baking in their own skins, gasping for air, smothered in faeces and unable to lie down to rest or even reach food or water.

Though the perpetrator in both the Queen Hind and the summer violation was Romania – against which Eurogroup for Animals adds its voice in calling on the Commission to start infringement proceedings – it is by no means the only offender. A recent investigation by Animals International

revealed the fate of French animals exported alive to Morocco and Lebanon, found suspended by their legs while still conscious, tied up and with their necks cut halfway through. A five-year investigation by Eyes on Animals and TSB/AWF demonstrated 70% of the trucks inspected at the Bulgarian border, a notorious exit point from the EU, were in breach of the EU Transport Regulation.

Even when tragedies like the Queen Hind or extreme weather conditions are not in the mix, the day-to-day suffering of animals being transported long distances is huge. It affects millions of chickens, sheep, goats, horses, pigs and bovines. The vast majority of journeys involve breaches of the law, whether they are by air, sea or road. Thousands of animals are crammed onto vessels that have been converted for the purpose, and even those that are conceived for live transport often don't provide for the animals' needs.

Every year during Easter, Italy imports tens of thousands of lambs at only four weeks old for slaughter, often for at least 30 hours. Investigations in 2019 led to three trucks being fined €15,000 for infringing the EU Transport Regulation. In late 2018 WELFARM and Animal Welfare Foundation followed a truck loaded with 155 unweaned calves from Poland to the Franco-German border, discovering massive violations.

While a few Member States did suspend or restrict live animal transport in temperatures over 30°C last summer, Australia has banned live sheep export during the summer season, as Commissioner Andriukaitis pointed out during last July's events. Citizens, too, have shown time and

time again that they are appalled by the suffering that live transport causes. The issue emerged as one of the top concerns for EU citizens for the future of agriculture, fishery and food production in Europe in the latest [Future of Europe](#) survey. This was further demonstrated by the success of Eurogroup for Animals' #StopTheTrucks campaign in 2016, which exceeded its target of 1 million signatures calling for an end to long distance live animal transportation. So why is Europe lagging behind on this?

The Transport Regulation is supposed to protect animals during their transport between and from the EU countries, but it is outdated and very unevenly implemented. As revealed by a European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) report in 2018, live transport of animals is actually going up since the entry into force of the Transport Regulation (2007).

Our own recent [report](#), 'A strategy to reduce and replace live animal transport', aims to show that there is a better way, and that a complete shift to a meat and carcasses only trade is not only possible, it is long overdue. It presents case studies of alternatives that have been successfully established in the UK and New Zealand. It also outlines examples of where one key initiative with the potential to reduce live transport – mobile slaughter – has been successfully implemented in some Member States.

In short, the report concludes that shifting to the trade of meat and carcasses only would be justified not only by animal health and welfare reasons, but also by environmental indicators, economic considerations and existing practices.

It's 2020, and it's time for the Commission to start gradually replacing the long-distance transport of live animals with the trade of meat and carcasses. A revision of the Transport Regulation, strongly supported by the EU co-legislators, could de facto eliminate these transports: the Commission would have the opportunity to limit transportation time to eight hours by eliminating all the provisions that currently allow the transport of animals over this limit.

A revision would also make it possible to better tackle ill-compliance – as well as unfair competition among EU operators – by introducing, respectively, stricter and more systematic control by the EC on the work of the competent authorities and harmonised EU infringement systems.

The Commission would also have the possibility to tackle specific problematic issues, such as the transport of unweaned animals – which should be strictly forbidden and supported by actions to favour the uptake of 'closed farms' – and of pregnant animals. Currently, animals can be loaded into trucks and vessels even if heavily pregnant, and this results in births during transportation. This urgently needs to be refined by extending the legislative status of 'unfit for transport' to animals at an earlier stage of pregnancy.

*“ The horrendous way in which we submit living animals to torturous journeys is a shameful example of one of the areas within animal welfare in the EU that is in need of fast improvement. The fight for an 8-hour transportation limit must continue. Animals are sentient beings and we should treat them as such. That is not the case today, and therefore we need to change the rules as soon as possible.”*



Niels Fuglsang MEP  
(S&D, DK)

Transport via sea should abide by the same rules, and stricter requirements for vessels should be also developed.

There is a broad support in political and civil society for this revision. Let's see if the Commission's apparent inclination to work on this during its new legislative term turns out to be more than just hot air.





## OBITUARY

# Heli Dungler, 1963-2020

**It was with great shock and sadness that we heard about the sudden death on 5th January 2020 of Heli Dungler, CEO of FOUR PAWS, our Board member and lifelong animal advocate. Eurogroup for Animals expresses its sincere condolences to Heli's family and colleagues.**

Heli Dungler was born in Waidhofen an der Thaya in Lower Austria in 1963. In 1984 he started his career at Greenpeace Austria, already nurturing a desire to actively promote animal welfare.

In 1988 he founded FOUR PAWS (MIER PFOTEN) in Vienna, which was initially devoted to protecting animals from being farmed for their fur. Ten years later, after a relentless fight against fur animal breeding in Austria, he was

instrumental in closing the last domestic fur animal farm in the Waldviertel.

Meanwhile, the organisation had been branching out into other areas. Through negotiations with decision-makers around the world, Heli campaigned for higher animal welfare standards in agriculture, legislative changes in the keeping of brown bears and the protection of big cats and stray animals.

In 1991 FOUR PAWS demanded the mandatory labelling of eggs and a total ban on battery cages for egg-laying hens, bringing about the of Austria's largest battery cage egg producer in 1999. Heli was also a pioneer in the import ban of stuffed geese and ducks, as well as at the cessation of chick shredding in the Austrian organic industry.

In 1998, on Heli's initiative, Austria's Arbesbach bear sanctuary opened, followed by the Dancing Bears Park Belitsa in Bulgaria in 2000. In 2002, animal welfare entered Germany's Basic Law, and Federal Minister Renate Künast thanked FOUR PAWS by name. The Federal Animal

Protection Act 2005 saw bans on fur farms and wild animals in circuses, for which Heli, among others, had paved the way.

In more recent years, Heli spearheaded FOUR PAWS' international protest against a planned law to cull dogs was successful; the law was thrown out by the Romanian Supreme Court. The organisation's campaign calling on eBay to introduce seller verification on all of its classified sites gained over 200,000 supporters, and from March 2018, online traders have had to provide their full name and address, as well as the country of origin and breeding of the dogs offered for sale. In 2018, FOUR PAWS rescued lions and bears from 'Europe's worst zoo' in Tirana, Albania, and in the same year organised the 1st International Animal Welfare Summit in Vienna, Austria.

Heli was at LIONSROCK when he died, a big cat sanctuary established by FOUR PAWS in 2008 – the same year that Heli was awarded the Silver Order of Merit for Services Rendered to the Republic of Austria – and one of his favourite places. He was an inspiration for Eurogroup for Animals' network of organisations fighting for a better life for animals in Europe and worldwide. All admired how he established and grew FOUR PAWS into a leading global organisation that is making a real impact for animals and is now represented in 15 countries.

Heli has left his pawprint on Eurogroup for Animals too: he was a highly committed member of the Board, with a keen eye to detail and a clear view of strategic direction. Hand-in-hand with FOUR PAWS, we will make sure Heli's vision and passion live in our daily work to create a world that cares for animals.

Heli leaves a truly wonderful legacy: a fantastic organisation and team of committed individuals who are bringing a better life to countless animals around the world every single day. Across the network, organisations and individuals have – and will continue to – draw inspiration from the excellent work that FOUR PAWS carries out.

**“ Dear Heli, we will miss your passionate leadership for animals, your contagious sense of fun and your inspiring thoughts on how to move the world for animals. Not being able to see you anymore leaves a big crater in our work and in my heart, but your presence and vision will always be there. Together we will honour your life and carry your legacy forward.”**

Reineke Hameleers, CEO,  
Eurogroup for Animals



**Andreas Erler,**  
Senior Political Adviser



### **OFFICIAL APPROVAL OF THE EP'S INTERGROUP ON THE WELFARE AND CONSERVATION OF ANIMALS AND TWO OF ITS ONGOING INITIATIVES**

In December, the Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament confirmed the list of the 27 officially registered Intergroups of this term from a long list of proposals. The Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals was one of those to be reconfirmed, making it one of the few Intergroups that have been in place throughout all the legislative terms of the European Parliament since 1983.

Nearly a hundred MEPs from all political groups and representing the majority of the Member States have registered as Members of the Animal Welfare Intergroup so far, and the average attendance since the beginning of the term has been 24 MEPs per session. This is clear evidence of the keen interest and commitment of many MEPs for animal welfare and conservation issues.

The Intergroup is currently promoting the setup of a Committee of Inquiry on animal transport following the recommendation in last term's EP report on the implementation of Council Regulation No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport within and outside the EU. This Committee will allow cruelty in animal transport to be investigated and monitored accurately, inciting concrete improvements. It is likely that the request will be submitted to the Conference of Presidents by the end of January.

Another ongoing initiative is the Intergroup's declaration on a transition to non-animal science which was launched at the end of last year. It calls on the Commission to ensure increased support for non-animal methodologies within the next EU framework research programme, Horizon Europe. It asks for a concrete strategy with targets to phase out the use of animals in specific areas of research and testing, and for the Commission to collaborate with Member States to draw up a roadmap to end the use of animals for the primary purpose of education and training of human and veterinary healthcare professionals and life scientists in the EU.

## IN EUROPE

### #Act4Pets

#### NEW IRISH LAW TARGETS ILLEGAL BREEDERS



As of 1st February 2020, a new law came into force in Ireland to regulate the sale and supply of pets such as cats and dogs. Anyone selling or supplying pets will be obliged to register with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and include their registration number in any form of advertising. The only sellers exempt from this will be those offering fewer than five animals in a calendar year.

Together with the mandatory identification and registration of dogs, it seems Ireland is on a smooth path towards putting strict controls in place and reducing the amount of illegally bred pets, especially dogs. This should also translate into better traceability of animals and sellers, as well as fewer pets being abandoned and ending up in shelters, and better enforcement of animal protection laws.

This new law has been positively welcomed by Irish animal welfare charities as yet another tool in the portfolio – but a very powerful one, should enforcement follow. We will promote this model at the EU level and aim for similar solutions Europe-wide.

### #Act4Wildlife

#### PARIS SAYS ‘NON’ TO WILD ANIMALS IN CIRCUSES



There are to be no more wild animals in circuses in Paris – almost. In November the capital voted to end the issuing of *autorisations d'occupation de terrain*, or land occupation permits, for circuses that have wild animals.

But the decision, which will come into force in 2020, will not apply to circuses Bouglione and Gruss. Bouglione owns its own land, le Cirque d'Hiver, and Gruss will have to agree to the ban when their existing land occupation permit runs out in 2020 if they want to continue their activity.

Two-thirds of French citizens oppose the presence of wild animals in circuses, according to an Opinion Way survey conducted in early October. By the end of 2018, some 40 countries around the world, including 28 in Europe, had partially or totally banned circuses with wild animals.

### #FurFreeEU

#### CALIFORNIA LEADS THE WAY ON SALE AND MANUFACTURE FUR BANS



California has become the first US state to ban the sale and manufacture of fur, following in the footsteps of the fourteen EU Member States that have already done so. The state's fur products prohibition bill will come into effect on January 1, 2023.

The US is one of the largest importers of fur from Poland, where our Member Organisation Otwarte Klatki has carried out many investigations into the reality of fur farming. Their 2018 investigation revealed that foxes and raccoon dogs have 0.6m<sup>2</sup> of space at their disposal, and minks 0.255m<sup>2</sup>. For animals that travel many kilometers a day, this is an unbearable confinement that leads to aggression and behavioral disorders. They also demolished industry claims that killing on farms is quick, efficient and humane by showing that many animals do not die immediately.

California was also the third US state, after New Jersey and Hawaii, to ban animal circus acts.



## #Act4FarmAnimals

### DANISH MINISTER WILL TIGHTEN ANIMAL WELFARE CONTROLS ON PIG FARMS



In October the Danish Food Minister, Mogens Jensen, warned the pig industry that official controls on pig farms will be significantly increased. The news came after unannounced checks on animal welfare on more than 300 pig herds revealed serious violations at a third of them.

“An unreasonably high number of farmers do not provide the most basic statutory animal welfare for the animals they have in their custody,” said the Minister. “The worst thing is that we are seeing an increase in the most serious violations.”

The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration, which carried out the unannounced checks during 2018, found that mortality among piglets and sows had increased between 2017 and 2018. Prosecutions also went up from 13 in 2017 to 23 in 2018, with the majority of reports finding that sick or injured animals were not receiving proper care or treatment.

The Minister said that he would meet with industry and other parties as soon as possible to discuss how to improve animal welfare on Danish pig farms.

## #Act4Trade\_AW

### TIME FOR THE EU TO SUSPEND HORSE MEAT IMPORTS FROM CANADA?



An audit published by the EU Commission found that Canadian slaughterhouses do not comply with EU rules on traceability, implying a risk to public health.

The Commission audit was also supposed to address animal welfare, insofar as the EU Regulation (EC) N° 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing applies to meat imported into the EU – but it doesn't mention it as a legal basis or legal reference, and there is only a short paragraph that addresses animal welfare at all.

Animal welfare conditions are in fact a serious concern. Horses are kept out in the open, with documented temperatures as low as -30°C. Even foals are not given shelter, and some freeze to death at birth.

Traceability, and therefore public health, can only be ensured if the EU imposes a six month quarantine in feedlots – but such a measure would increase the time the animals have to endure the poor living conditions revealed by the investigations.

## #Act4LabAnimals

### NEW RULES FOR PHARMA COMPANIES WILL MEAN FEWER LAB ANIMALS ARE NEEDED



New guidelines for the pharmaceutical industry could mean that fewer laboratory animals will be needed to test whether drugs are harmful to pregnant women.

To determine whether medicines have harmful effects, they are extensively tested before they can be placed on the market. Around 1000 rabbits and 1500 rats are currently used per medicine in the early testing phases. With the new rules, that will only be 200 rats or rabbits, with larger numbers of animals used only in phase three. As three-quarters of all potential medicines don't get past phases one and two, this could potentially save hundreds of thousands of lab animals worldwide.

The College ter Beoordeling van Geneesmiddelen or Medicines Evaluation Board, which monitors the quality of medicines on behalf of the Netherlands government, is involved in drawing up the guidelines for pharmaceutical companies.



**Usually, confiscated and surrendered wild animals cannot be returned to their country of origin. Consequently, rescue centres and sanctuaries in Europe are key to ensuring the welfare of these animals and to fight wildlife trafficking in the EU. However, the growing illegal trade in wildlife and the exploding trend of keeping exotic pets means that providing proper housing for these animals is becoming more and more challenging.**



## JOINING FORCES

# TO SOLVE THE WILDLIFE RESCUE CRISIS IN EUROPE



In October 2019, ten tigers from a circus in Italy – nine of them severely weakened and one dead – were found in horrific conditions in small crates in a horse truck at the Polish border, having got stuck on their way to Russia. The deceased tiger had died from intestinal problems from being given incorrect food, and the rest were starving, thirsty and in a state of extreme distress after a ten day standstill at the border.

There are simply not enough certified facilities to cope with the increase in rescue requests that arise from situations like this. In the tigers' case, their predicament is thought to have been because of illegal trading between circuses, a common practise which is known to have a detrimental impact on animal welfare. But requests for animals to be housed are mainly rising because of the growing illegal trade in wildlife and the trend of keeping exotic pets, which often end up abandoned, and sometimes even because of the implementation of new but necessary legislation such as bans of wild animals in circuses.

Staff at rescue centres and sanctuaries in Europe can offer expertise directly to the government in identifying, handling, transporting, housing, and caring for specimens, or can train government representatives in these skills. Rescue centres can also keep detailed records which may prove invaluable for law enforcement purposes and ensure that animals are not sold, stolen, permitted to re-enter trade, or improperly released. On the other hand, though, no consistent and clear standards exist for the designation and selection of rescue centres throughout the EU, and they suffer from a chronic lack of funds and consideration.

The result is that sometimes inappropriate rescue centres are selected, data are lost and animals are lost – sometimes re-entering the illegal trade. If a rescue centre is not available, confiscated live specimens may end up in inappropriate places such as inadequate temporary housing, commercial breeding facilities, or with unlicensed individuals unqualified to care for the animals. In worst case scenarios, animals may die soon after confiscation through lack of appropriate housing and care, be unnecessarily euthanized, or not confiscated at all.

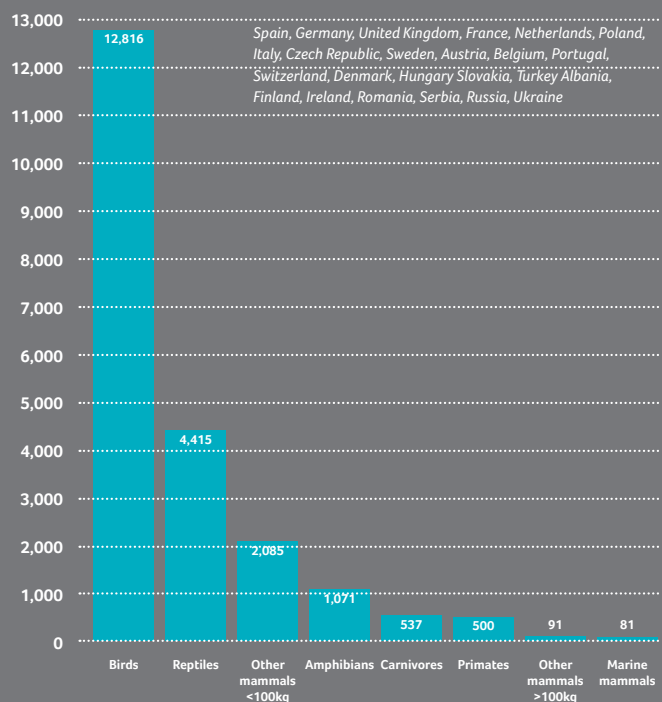
According to a survey conducted by AAP Animal Advocacy and Conservation and the European Alliance of Rescue Centres and Sanctuaries (EARS), the main reason that rescue facilities are unable to accept new animals is the lack of space to host them. 46 of the 112 rescue centres interviewed identified this as the main reason for refusing animals, followed by a lack of appropriate skills and enclosures (18) and lack of funds (16).

It is essential, then, that everything is done to make the best use of the rescue facilities that currently operate in Europe. However, there is considerable variation between EU Member States in how wild animal rescue facilities are supported and how regulations pertaining to wild animal management, including health and transport, are implemented. This makes the already difficult job of rescue centers and sanctuaries even more challenging.

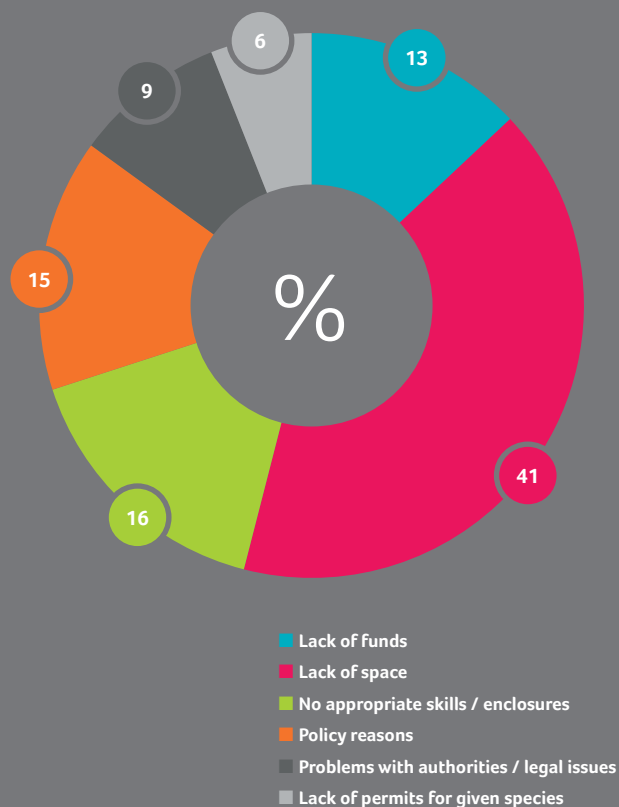
In October, AAP Animal Advocacy and Protection, EARS and Eurogroup for Animals organised an event in the European Parliament, hosted by Martin Hojsík MEP and Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals, to discuss Europe's wildlife rescue crisis. The event offered the opportunity to present and discuss a new [White Paper](#) by AAP Animal Advocacy and Protection, EARS and Eurogroup for Animals, which explores the critical role played by rescue facilities in the fight against the illegal wildlife trade. MEPs, Member States' representatives and animal welfare NGOs all came to the conclusion that increased coordination and more support is needed at the EU level to combat the illegal wildlife trade and tackle the current shortage of rescue capacity.

The nine surviving tigers found in Poland were some of the lucky ones, in the end. Merida, Aqua, Toph, Softi and Sanson have found a new home at AAP Primadomus, the organisation's Spanish rescue centre, and Gogh, Kan, Maximus and Fenix are in Polish zoos. But it is clear that so much more needs to be done to tackle this issue at a systemic level.

The EU should provide harmonized guidance to Member States in order for them to develop country-specific Action Plans for wild animal rescue. The development of such plans should ensure adequate government funding for rescue facilities and consistent interpretation of the rules and regulations pertaining to wild animal rescue. Finally, funds should be allocated at the EU level and made available to Member States to ensure consistent and appropriate support is provided to rescue facilities across Europe. The evaluation of the EU Action Plan Against Wildlife Trafficking, which is expected to be published by the end of this year, will offer the European Commission the opportunity to tackle these issues.



Total number of reported animals requests received by rescue facilities in 25 countries in 2017  
(Source: APP/EARS/Eurogroup for Animals White Paper, "BREAKING POINT: Solving the European Wildlife Rescue Crisis")



Why facilities refuse animals  
(Source: APP/EARS/Eurogroup for Animals White Paper, "BREAKING POINT: Solving the European Wildlife Rescue Crisis")



**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

**FOLLOW OUR WORK  
ON ANIMAL  
WELFARE**



## TIME TO CATCH UP: THE EU HAS NOT MET ITS SUSTAINABILITY TARGETS

Sophie Aylmer, Political Adviser

AGRIFISH ministers have yet again agreed to overfish several species. This will make it impossible for the EU to achieve the goals it has set for 2020: to reduce unwanted catch mortality, especially for vulnerable marine species, and ensure that all fishing activities are harvesting fish stocks sustainably.

We could see this target as a positive opportunity. It should mean that cuts to fish quotas and even closures of fisheries would now be needed for the EU to meet its binding 2020 deadline to end overfishing – good news for fish escaping the net. But for this to happen, urgent change is needed at both a political and a systemic level.

While fishing is now recognised as an exploitative industry which destroys ecosystems and biodiversity, habitats and food systems, the welfare of fish is still overlooked. Capture can last for days, and causes great distress and pain. Fish are often pursued to exhaustion and crushed under the weight of others in nets. Hundreds of thousands of marine species are further threatened by practices such as bottom-trawling.

There is currently no recognition that the moment a fish enters the capture gear it is ‘in our care’ and should be subject to welfare protection, not even at the time of slaughter. This is unbelievable given the scale of human consumption of fish. However, a wide range of tools is already available that has the potential to improve welfare and sustainability in fishing operations, and there have been significant advances in more selective fishing gear; for example, gear can be modified to minimise by-catch or the number of juvenile fish caught.

In 2020, the EU is also obliged to achieve Good Environmental Status for water – which has a clear impact on the welfare of fish – and four of the subgoals of Sustainable Development Goal no. 14, ‘Life Under Water’. To do this, Member States and the Commission must take the bold step of drastically reducing the allowable number of fish caught and seize the substantial opportunity for commercial fisheries to develop systems for humane slaughter on board fishing vessels, as well as more gentle methods of capture and landing of fish.



## NO EUROPEAN MONEY FOR UKRAINIAN POULTRY COMPANY

Stephanie Ghislain, Trade and Animal Welfare Programme Leader

Since it heard in February 2019 that MHP, the main Ukrainian poultry meat company exporting to the EU, had requested another loan from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Eurogroup for Animals and its Member Organisations have fought against it. In October, we won.

Our message was clear: the loan must respect the rules of the EBRD, which means that the grantee’s operations must follow animal welfare standards equivalent to those applied in the EU. This was not – and still has not – been proven in the case of MHP.

The discussions at the EBRD were postponed several times after the European Commission, through then Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström and then Agriculture Commissioner Phil Hogan, expressed its opposition to the EBRD granting such a loan to MHP. The EBRD had even published a recognition of the numerous concerns voiced by stakeholders and indicated that they would carry out a proper assessment of whether their environmental and social criteria – including animal welfare – were respected.

The announcement by the Ukrainian company in October that it has finally withdrawn its request for the €100 million loan is a victory. Faced with strong opposition from not only the animal welfare movement, the environmental NGOs and the European poultry sector, but also from the EU institutions themselves in the context of difficult EU-Ukraine trade discussions also on chicken imports, the company has opted for another way to finance its acquisition of a Slovenian poultry producer, avoiding thus more scrutiny.

Our coordinated efforts towards the EU institutions and several EU governments ensured that no additional European money will fund unsustainable agricultural practices carried out by the Ukrainian poultry giant. This is reason to celebrate!



## **‘STRATEGIES FOR INNOVATION IN LIFE SCIENCES’ PROVED WE ARE READY TO START THE TRANSITION TO NON-ANIMAL SCIENCE**

Luísa Ferreira Bastos, Animals in Science Programme Leader

Eurogroup for Animals, together with the Finnish Presidency of the Council of the EU, held an event in the European Parliament in December to raise awareness of the innovations and innovators in life sciences, and how non-animal approaches and scientists need to be incentivised in order to change the current scientific paradigm.

The event ‘Strategies for Innovation in Life Sciences’ had the participation of scientists from the Johns Hopkins’ Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing (CAAT), the Virtual Physiological Human Institute (VPHi), the Alliance for Human-Relevant Science, TissUse, the Finnish Centre for Alternative Methods (FICAM), the International Network for Humane Education (InterNICHE), and EURL ECVAM, the EU Reference Laboratory for Alternatives to Animal Testing. The speakers, who are promoting viable innovative approaches that move away from the use of animals, broadened the understanding of the competent authorities and policy makers in the room about this alternative way of research, testing and education.

The event also provided a platform for Tilly Metz MEP (Greens/EFA, LU) to announce the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animal’s declaration calling on the Commission for a phase-out strategy for animals in science, which has since received the support of other MEPs.

The event proved that there is no excuse to delay the transition to non-animal science and identified concrete steps that should be taken during the current political term.

- (1) The harmful use of animals should be phased out in human and veterinary medical courses, as well as in life sciences.
- (2) Testing and disease models should be standardised to better identify the applications and limitations of each method.
- (3) There could be more concrete legislation in areas where alternatives are already available and well-characterised.
- (4) The limitations of animal-based methods should be made clear, to help build trust in human-relevant methods.



## **COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS SEND A MESSAGE THAT CANNOT BE IGNORED – BETTER LEGISLATION FOR ANIMALS IS NEEDED**

Joe Moran, Senior Political Adviser

Citizens have spoken, the European Parliament has spoken – and at the end of 2019 the Council of the European Union has added its voice to the throng calling for a better future for animals in the EU.

The Conclusions adopted by Ministers in December revealed that the Council of the EU considers animal welfare an integral part of sustainable animal production, and that as a result, another term cannot go by without new or improved legislation for animals. There’s no excuse now for the Commission to ignore this huge body of evidence and not act on the wishes of the rest of Europe.

The Council Conclusions point out, in particular, that current legislation is not comprehensive, and invite the Commission to assess the need for and impact of new legislation covering all species for which specific animal welfare legislation does not exist at present: cattle at least six months old, farmed rabbits, pullets, dogs and cats, turkeys, broiler and laying hen breeders, sheep, goats and farmed fish.

They also stress the need to improve the welfare of animals during transport over long distances, encouraging the Commission and the Member States to find solutions that will help enforce the existing transport legislation. They call for more discussion about the sustainability of trade in live animals versus meat and carcasses, as well as for a review and update of the Transport Regulation.

We welcome these Conclusions, and congratulate the Finnish Presidency and the Member States for adopting them. Although they are not strictly binding, it is rare for the Commission not to take action in accordance with their wishes. Council, Parliament and citizens all expect actions on animal welfare this term. The Commission must now act to make sure that this shifting emphasis of both public opinion and public policy to focus more on animal welfare, as well as environmental standards and food quality, is reflected in new and improved legislation.



# GET TO KNOW US

## MEET YOUR EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS TEAM

With so many new Member Organisations on board, as well as several new faces on the Eurogroup for Animals team, it's high time for a recap of who we all are at Rue Ducale 29 in Brussels, and how the organisation works.



### Eurogroup has three management positions:

- Reineke Hameleers (1), CEO: has final responsibility for the team, as well as line-managing the policy and administration staff;
- Sophie De Jonckheere (2), Communications and Development Manager; line-manages the communications and development and finance staff;
- Tim Robinson (3), Senior Programme Leader: supports Reineke, Sophie and the rest of the team in coordinating programme and project activities.

### Our policy staff are grouped by dossier:

- Farm animals – Elena (4), Francesca (not pictured) and Alice (5); Doug (6) works on fish.
- Wildlife – Ilaria (7).
- Animals in Science – Luisa (8).
- Cats and dogs and equines – Iwona (9).

### We also have transversal departments that work across all the dossiers:

- Senior political advisers Andreas (10) and Joe (11) work with the European Parliament and the Commission and Council respectively. Political adviser Sophie A. (12) has a special focus on fish, and Political Officer Alessia (13) supports all areas.
- Trade and Animal Welfare – Steph (not pictured) runs the project, with Jeffrey (14) and Morgan (15) supporting.
- The Communications department comprises Vienna (16) and Emy (17) on communications, Elise (18) on campaigns and Biljana (19) on membership engagement and development. Christine (not pictured) takes care of events.

We're all supported by the finance department (not pictured), and Susanne (20) manages the office.

We also have temporary staff and interns from time to time, and our doors are always open to members who need a work station while in Brussels!

## OUR MEMBERS

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### HAPPY 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY TO US!

For forty years Eurogroup for Animals and its Member Organisations have been side by side, united behind one cause and jointly – step by step – achieving progress for animals. The animal advocacy movement has evolved enormously; our membership base has evolved from 6 founding bodies to 70 member organisations today, spread across Europe and beyond.



'Eurogroup for Animal Welfare' was officially formed in 1980 by the RSPCA, Deutsche Tierschutzbund, Dyrenes Beskyttelse, ISPCA, CNPA and Dierenbescherming, with WSPA and IFAW as observers. In 1983, a group of MEPs from different political groups and countries formed the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals in the European Parliament, whose first president was none other than Stanley Johnson – Boris Johnson's father! Eurogroup for Animals was asked to run the secretariat of this Intergroup.

After regular accessions brought new Member States – and therefore Member Organisations – on board, Eurogroup for Animal Welfare changed its name to Eurogroup for Animals in 2004 and adopted a new logo.

Eurogroup for Animals has been a major part of the evolution of animal welfare in Europe, which has made an impact for animals in the EU and beyond. Over the past four decades, we have seen significant change in the recognition of animal's needs and interests which has been reflected in legislation, corporate practice and societal beliefs.



*The 'Eurogroup Information Meeting' which took place in London on 17th October 1980, the year Eurogroup for Animals came into being. L-r: R. Julian Hopkins, RSPCA Executive Director; Michael Kay, the first Eurogroup chairman; and E. F. Seymour-Rouse, Director of European Liaison.*



## SUPPORT US

**EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS IS A STRONG VOICE FOR ANIMALS IN EUROPE. OUR STRENGTH COMES FROM OUR MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND PARTNERS WITH WHOM WE RELENTLESSLY ADVOCATE TO IMPROVE THE WELFARE OF THE MILLIONS OF ANIMALS LIVING BY OUR SIDES.**

But this is an uphill battle. This is why we constantly strive to attract new supporters to join our movement and why we also need your help. Animal suffering is a reality, but there is an alternative. So come and join your forces to ours to fight for a better future for all animals.

There are many ways to help: visit our website, sign our latest petition, follow us on social media, share our posts or contact us to become a member or make a donation.



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