



Animals in Europe

Bringing you the latest developments on animal welfare in the EU

Written declaration 26 on dog population management in the EU

In June, Members of the European Parliament Daciana Octavia Sârbu, Adina-Ioana Vălean Elisabeth Jeggle, Raúl Romeva i Rueda and Janusz Wojciechowski launched Written Declaration 26 on dog population management in the European Union.

The declaration asks Member States to adopt comprehensive dog population management strategies which include measures such as dog control and anti-cruelty laws, support for veterinary procedures including rabies vaccination and sterilisation as necessary to control the number of unwanted dogs, and the promotion of responsible pet ownership.

The Declaration also calls on the European Commission

to encourage all Member States to introduce the mandatory identification and registration of every dog, by means of a EU-wide compatible system, in order to avoid the spread of disease.

To be adopted the declaration must be signed by at least 378 MEPs (so far more than 170 have signed it). Eurogroup therefore urges you contact your own Member of the European Parliament and urge them to sign the Written Declaration before 6 October 2011, when it will lapse.

To read the Written Declaration in your own language download it at the following address <http://ow.ly/6sXfp>.

2012 battery cage ban must be enforced

Eurogroup urges all Member States to enforce the EU ban on the use of barren battery cages for the production of eggs. due to come into force in January 2012.

These barren battery cages see hens cramped together in a space only the size of a sheet of A4 paper preventing them from carrying out their normal behaviour.

"Despite having had 12 years the egg producing industry has not changed to other systems and we call on the European Commission to ensure that illegal eggs will not be sold and that non-compliant countries are taken to the European Courts," stated Sonja Van Tichelen, director of Eurogroup for Animals.

Retailers and food producers should also act and ensure that their products do not use eggs from battery cages and respect the wishes of Europe's citizens.

Export refunds must be scrapped

Eurogroup for Animals is extremely disappointed that as part of the major revision of the Common Agriculture Policy, as seen in recently leaked proposals, the European commission will recommend that Export Refunds are maintained.

Export subsidies are not only a hindrance to international trade. They particularly fuel the long-distance transportation of live animals and cause animal suffering and distress.

Eurogroup asked in July this year Elisabeth Jeggle MEP to send on official question to the European Commission concerning its position on the future use of export subsidies by the EU.

In its answer (26/08/2011), the Commission stated that "as long as there is no acceptable outcome of the Doha Development Round in the WTO, it is not in the interest of the EU to unilaterally withdraw the basis for export refunds in its legislation".

This is extremely disappointing and shows that the European Union has no commitment to lead the way in developing the highest standards of animal welfare or promoting sustainable agriculture.

The leaked proposals also show that animal welfare will be further compromised as the Broiler and laying hens directives will not be included in cross compliance

Work programme on alternatives to surgical pig castration

Following the recent publication of the European Declaration on alternatives to surgical castration of pigs, which encourages farmers to move away from and ultimately phase out of this painful process, the European Commission has allocated 1,330,000 Euros to finance activities to achieve this major step forward including:

- The development of reference methods for the detection and measurement of substances responsible for boar taint.
- A study on consumer acceptance of meat coming from non-surgically castrated

- pigs
- A study for rapid detection methods for boar taint in abattoirs
- A study on how to achieve reduction of boar taint compounds by breeding,



feeding and management techniques

- A study and economic analysis of the costs and benefits of ending surgical castration of pigs
- The development and maintenance of a dedicated website providing education and training

Eurogroup welcomes this Initiative and looks forward to seeing the improvements to pig welfare in the near future. More information can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/farm/initiatives_en.htm

EU animal testing for cosmetics cannot be justified and deadline for ban must be maintained

The European Commission has published its ninth *Report on the development, validation, and legal acceptance of alternative methods to animal testing in the field of cosmetics*, providing detailed information on the development of alternative test methods and the number of animals used in cosmetics testing. This report will be used to help decide whether or not the ban to end all tests in 2013 will be maintained.

The Report recognises that some tests may not be ready until 2019. However, even if alternative test methods are not ready this cannot be used as a justification to extend the use of animal testing beyond 1 January 2013.

You can read the report here: http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/docs/annual_reports_animal_testing_13092011_en.pdf

New website launched!

Eurogroup for Animals has launched a brand new website providing a one-stop location for the latest information on the organisation's work. The website also utilises social media tools including Twitter and

Facebook to ensure users can stay up-to-date.

To find out more, please visit: www.eurogroupforanimals.org

Or on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/eurogroupforanimals>

Or on Twitter <http://twitter.com/eg4atweets>

Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) revision lacks welfare provisions

Eurogroup with its member Compassion in World Farming has written to Commissioner Damanaki expressing our concern that the revision of the CFP does not include any reference to fish welfare in the text. This despite a clear reference to it in recital 11 which states that it should "*pay full regard, where relevant, to animal health [and] animal welfare*".

This is extremely disappointing as fisheries is one of the policy areas covered in Article 13 of the Lisbon Treaty that requires "*member states to pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals*".

Eurogroup will work with its members to ensure this is rectified and that the revised policy clearly includes the welfare of fish.

Pushing to end Slaughter without stunning

Following media reports that 75% of animals slaughtered within the EU are not stunned prior to slaughter, Eurogroup for Animals requested the European Commission to respond, as this appears to be much higher than the amount required to meet the needs of the religious communities in the EU.

A response from the Directorate General Health and Consumers of the European Commission informs us that they will contact the Member States excessively using the derogation from stunning, asking them to establish what measures they intend to take to improve the level of compliance with EU legislation in this area.

Intergroup for the welfare and conservation of animals

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 27 October 2011

Topic:
Health and invasive risks of exotic animals

For the full agenda and last minute updates visit: www.animalwelfareintergroup.eu

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