



# Animals in Europe

Bringing you the latest developments on animal welfare in the EU

## Call for EU action on the welfare of companion animals



Eurogroup for Animals is extremely pleased that the European Parliament has supported a Written Declaration calling on the Commission and Member States to develop a cohesive

*"We are extremely grateful to the European Parliament for recognising the current difficulties experienced by not having a co-ordinated approach to companion animals across the European Union and for supporting this Written Declaration. Currently there are major differences in animal welfare standards across EU member states and there is a need for concerted action to improve the situation,"* said Sonja Van Tichelen, Director of Eurogroup for Animals.

policy for dog population management and compulsory identification and registration of dogs. This sends a clear message to the European Commission that it must act now and include the welfare of companion animals in the second EU strategy for the protection and welfare of animals and represents a first step in developing a harmonised approach across the EU for companion animals.

*"We hope that the Commission will now act swiftly to address the concerns raised in both this Written Declaration and the Council Conclusions agreed at the end of last year. It is vital that we have a co-ordinated policy approach across the EU to prevent animal suffering and halt the spread of disease and illegal trade,"* she concluded.

## Revised CAP proposals fail to consider animal welfare

Eurogroup for Animals is extremely disappointed that the Commission in the proposals for the revision of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) published on 12 October has missed to recognise in their objectives animal welfare as a public good, but limit them instead to delivering viable food production, sustainable management of natural resources and climate action, and balanced territorial development. The improvement of animal welfare could well be promoted through these broader objectives, but it remains to be seen how in practice this will be taken into account.

*"No basic payment is foreseen to be given to farmers to improve animal welfare and in fact animal welfare is no longer stated clearly as an objective of the Common Agriculture Policy as it was previously in 2003,"* said Véronique Schmit, Executive Officer Policy of Eurogroup for Animals.

*"The future CAP will also continue to subsidise the export of live cattle to third countries, with the associated problems caused by long distance transport. The European Commission has missed the opportunity of standing firm and leading the way in ending export refunds,"* she concluded.

## Updated website raises profile of animal welfare in the European Parliament

The European Parliament's Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals, whose Secretariat is provided by Eurogroup, launched its new website last week, which features a fresh and modern design.

The website contains the latest information on the activities of the Intergroup and is frequently updated with relevant parliamentary activity. It aims at being a vital resource for Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and their assistants to find out the latest developments related to animal welfare in the EU, read in-depth analyses of current issues and help them get their message across.

Founded in 1983, the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals has proved to be one of the most popular parliamentary intergroups. It meets monthly in Strasbourg and offers a platform for all MEPs of all political groups to discuss animal welfare issues and receive views from different stakeholders on current topics.

# Commission must take clear action against illegal eggs

Eurogroup is deeply shocked by Commissioner Dalli's announcement on 5 October during the European Parliament's Agriculture Committee, which makes a mockery of EU animal welfare policy. Indeed, while announcing that he would stand firm and not postpone the upcoming 2012 ban on the use of battery cages, he continued saying he is looking for a "solution" for those producers who have not changed their production system to allow them to continue to sell their eggs.

*"By allowing producers to flagrantly break the law and continue selling illegally produced eggs the Commission is undermining its own legislation and credibility. The European Commission must take clear action and force member states to implement the legislation on time and not adapt the legislation to accommodate the unwillingness of a sector to comply,"* stated Sonja Van Tichelen, director of Eurogroup for Animals.

## Export refunds continue to cause animal suffering

Shocking figures recently published by the European Commission show the recovery of export refunds for live animal export to third countries, which do not comply with EU law on transport.

Between 2009 and 2010 the number of refund payments recovered doubled with 2149 animals affected in 2010. These animals continue to be found dead on arrival, and give birth or abort during transport.

This is deplorable and the use of public funds to refund exports should be stopped immediately.

To read the European Commission's report, go to: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/registre/docs\\_autres\\_institutions/commission\\_europeenne/sec/2011/1115/COM\\_SEC\(2011\)1115\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/registre/docs_autres_institutions/commission_europeenne/sec/2011/1115/COM_SEC(2011)1115_EN.pdf)

## New report reveals health threat from exotic pets

Eurogroup for Animals in a new report highlights the risk of zoonoses from wild animals kept as pets. Zoonoses are diseases which are passed from animals to humans. With an ever growing number of these animals imported, sold and kept in the EU

*"Not only is animal welfare being ignored here but the whole idea of a common market is being challenged if sales of an EU banned product are allowed but restricted to the country in which they were produced. Producers who have conformed to the law and changed their production methods will be penalised and millions of laying hens will continue to suffer, this is totally unacceptable."* she concluded.

Barren battery cage cannot be used for egg production from 1 January 2012 so any eggs produced from these systems will be illegal. According to data provided to Commissioner Dalli by member states, eggs produced in 12 countries could still come from illegal barren battery cages despite the sector being given 12 years to make the switch.

the threat of disease increases and prevention policies are becoming urgent.

New companion animals are often kept in the house and owners are unaware that with the new pet comes a great risk of illness. From life threatening viruses such as rabies and the plague to salmonella and tuberculosis, this report provides an overview of the main diseases and the animals that carry them.

The legal market for wild animals globally accounts for millions of birds, apes, and amphibians and illegal trade in wildlife is ranked third in size behind drugs and arms trafficking. The wild animal pet trade is not only a serious health risk for humans but an animal welfare catastrophe as millions of wild animals are forced into the inappropriate role of a pet. With living conditions unsuitable for wild animals and animals suffering from inappropriate care and handling many are abandoned with very little chance of finding new owners.

To read the report, go to: <http://eurogroupforanimals.org/files/publications/downloads/Zoonotic-risk-report.pdf>

## Council conclusions on the 6<sup>th</sup> Community Environment Action Programme

The European Council recently

issued its conclusions on the assessment of the 6<sup>th</sup> community Environment Action Programme (EAP) and the way forward.

Adopted in 2002, this programme constitutes the framework for the Union's environmental policy with the aim of ensuring a high level of protection of the environment over a ten year period, including areas such as animal welfare.

In its conclusions, the Council notes that the 6<sup>th</sup> EAP has been helpful in providing an overarching framework for environment policy which has consolidated environmental legislation.

Eurogroup calls on the Commission and Member States to ensure that the next environment programme includes animal welfare and emphasises the link between animal welfare and improving the environment.

## Intergroup for the welfare and conservation of animals

Next Intergroup meeting  
Thursday 17 November 2011

Topic of this 277<sup>th</sup> session  
Animal Transport

For the full agenda and last minute updates visit:  
[www.animalwelfareintergroup.eu](http://www.animalwelfareintergroup.eu)

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