



21.5.2019

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Subject: Petition No 1023/2018 by C. V. (French) on ending cattle farming of animals in captivity

1. Summary of petition

The petitioner writes in support of the European Citizens Initiative (ECI) “EU citizens call for an end to cages for animals” registered by the European Commission on 11 September 2018.

2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 21 March 2019. Information requested from Commission under Rule 216(6).

3. Commission reply, received on 21 May 2019

The Commission’s observations

On 11 September 2018¹ the Commission registered the ongoing European Citizens’ Initiative entitled “EU citizens call for an end to cages for animals”. The Commission will respond to the initiative should it meet the required conditions laid down in Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 on the citizens’ initiative².

The use of cages or individual stalls is permitted in the EU under certain conditions depending on the species concerned. Nevertheless, the EU has introduced major changes in

¹ Commission registration number: ECI(2018)000004.

² Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 on the citizens’ initiative, *OJL 65, 11.3.2011, p. 1–22*.

this regard by banning the use of bare cages for laying hens since 2012³ and by requiring the group housing of sows and gilts since 2013⁴.

Conclusion

The Commission will reply to the citizens' initiative entitled "EU citizens call for an end to cages for animals" should it meet the conditions required by the EU legislation.

³ Article 5(2) of Council Directive 1999/74/EC of 19 July 1999 laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens, OJ L 203, 3.8.1999, p. 53.

⁴ Article 3(9) of Council Directive 2008/120/EC of 18 December 2008 laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs, OJ L 47, 18.2.2009, p. 5.