



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2012/2043(INI)

05.6.2012

OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

on the European Union Strategy for the Protection and Welfare of Animals
2012-2015
(2012/2043(INI))

Rapporteur: Kartika Tamara Liotard

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Recalls that Article 13 of the Treaty is of general application and as such is equally as important as the environment or consumer protection and legally preeminent to all internal market policies; stresses that, consequently, the EU's strategy on animal welfare must include initiatives, actions and instruments to ensure that the welfare of all animals features in all policy areas;
2. Welcomes the European Union Animal Health Strategy 2012–2015 but notes with regret that the importance of healthy animals for public health, as promoted in the concept of 'Animals + Humans = One Health', or the link between animal health and animal welfare, does not feature in that strategy;
3. Strongly regrets that the Commission has failed to come up with new legislative proposals that will improve the welfare of animals in the EU as a part of the Strategy; acknowledges that improved enforcement is a key element in better animal welfare in the EU but insists that new legislation must be presented in order to improve the current animal welfare standards;
4. Stresses that improved animal welfare impacts on food safety and results in economic benefits for the food chain;
5. Welcomes the inclusion of a European Animal Welfare Framework Law in the Strategy, provided that such a legal framework is not allowed to dilute existing national provisions and that the principle of subsidiarity is carefully examined; reiterates that such a Framework Law should be based on up-to-date validated science and should cover all animals, whether domesticated or stray, as well as wild animals kept in zoos and aquariums, and invasive alien species; in addition, welcomes acknowledgement of the need for the general public to be more effectively informed about animal welfare;
6. Stresses the need to improve animal welfare through maintaining and developing policies and legal standards in the area of livestock farming, live animal transport (also called live export), wildlife protection and animals used in research and testing;
7. Urges the Commission, where there is clear scientific evidence demonstrating animal welfare and animal transport problems, to adapt or introduce new policy instruments, such as species-specific legislation and outcome-based animal welfare indicators and criteria associated with a risk assessment system as applied in the food safety area, to resolve these problems, factoring in a better share-out of animal welfare costs along the food chain, including in particular the cases of dairy cattle, beef cattle, rabbits, farmed fish and live animal transport; points out that use should be made of the EFSA scientific opinion in this connection;
8. Regrets that the strategy fails to promote high levels of animal welfare standards by using

the opportunities in the Sustainable Consumption and Production, Green Public Procurement and Corporate Social Responsibility policies;

9. Stresses that the list of actions included in the Strategy must include:
 - revision of Regulation 1/2005, including a proposal to limit the duration of transport of farmed animals to 8 hours, as requested, inter alia, by Written Declaration 49/2011 adopted on 15 March 2011 and by over 1 100 000 signatories of the 8hours petition, and a genuine move towards simplifying the applicable statutory provisions and reducing administrative costs, leading to greater flexibility for economic operators;
 - a legislative proposal introducing a ban on cloning and on the placing on the market of products from clones and their offspring;
 - a legislative proposal introducing a ban on the genetic modification of animals and on the placing on the market of products from genetically modified animals and their offspring;
 - legislative proposals laying down minimum standards for the protection of both cattle and rabbits;
 - the introduction of rules for informing consumers, by means of labels, about animal slaughtering methods;
 - the introduction of EU guidelines or implementing rules on the protection of animals at the time of killing;
 - implementation of the European Declaration on alternatives to surgical castration of pigs;
10. Considers that the European Animal Welfare Framework Law should approach the issue of stray animals, which is particularly serious in the EU's southern and eastern Member States, by implementing effective sterilisation measures; calls on the European Union and the Member States to ratify the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals;
11. Considers that the European Animal Welfare Framework Law should include measures aimed at solving the problem of the possession of wild birds from capture or from farming used in some Member States as live decoys in hunting migratory birds, in conditions incompatible with their nature;
12. Encourages the Commission to adopt an EU-wide strategy for the development and use of alternative non-animal testing methods as soon as possible, in the context of the revision of EU legislation and in the context of new technologies, such as, but not restricted to, nanotechnology and cloning; points out, however, that consumer safety must remain the priority; supports the final deadline of March 2013 for the prevention of the sale of new cosmetics tested on animals and calls on the Commission not to extend it or grant any exemptions;
13. Calls on the Commission to actively support the relevant strategy-setting and research functions of the EU Reference Laboratory (the Joint Research Centre) to identify priority areas for replacement of animal research techniques, including through identification of

human toxicity and disease pathways and development of human-relevant in-vitro and computational models of disease;

14. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure that the Horizon 2020 research programme foresees adequate opportunities for research in the fields of biodiversity conservation, wildlife trade, the development and validation of non-animal alternatives and the impact of emerging technologies such as, but not restricted to, nanotechnology and cloning;
15. Urges the Commission to undertake a careful examination of the impact on animal health, human health and the environment of current unsustainable methods of livestock production and to ensure that the planned synergies with the CAP included in the Strategy result in greater support for sustainable production systems with improved animal welfare, thereby also helping prevent the spread of diseases and antimicrobial resistance; recommends drawing on practical experience – this should include a report evaluating the extent of routine prophylactic, non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in agriculture, as well as of the existing systems of monitoring and reporting on this matter in all the Member States;
16. Urges the Council to guarantee a substantial improvement in animal welfare through rural development, particularly by providing for adequate funding for the animal welfare payment and ensuring that all rural development programmes for the period 2014-2020 include the animal welfare measure;
17. Stresses the need for the CAP after 2013 to support farmers who apply higher animal welfare standards beyond cross-compliance and to adopt specific measures in order for EU agriculture to move from industrial livestock production to more sustainable, environment-friendly, humane forms of animal husbandry;
18. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to use cross-compliance as a tool to improve the enforcement of EU animal welfare legislation; believes in this regard that all the EU standards on the protection of animals kept for farming purposes should be included in cross-compliance and that penalties should be high enough to be dissuasive;
19. Stresses the clear relationship between animal health, human health and the protection of the environment and calls on the Commission to integrate animal welfare as an objective of the future 7th Environment Action Programme, ensuring, in particular, the inclusion of strategies and actions aiming to reduce the use of animals in research, to protect wild animals, to effectively protect and improve biodiversity, and to promote sustainable livestock farming;
20. Calls on the European Commission and the Member States to take the necessary measures to educate stakeholders in the requirements for keeping wild animal species in captivity, ensuring effective use of a species-specific enrichment programme that provides appropriate mental and physical stimulation, in order to improve the welfare of wild animals currently in captivity; calls for an urgent and thorough implementation of the Zoo Directive and for all enforcement personnel and zoo veterinarians to be appropriately trained and qualified;

21. Supports the principle of labelling of food products that comply with animal welfare standards which are more stringent than those required by law; calls on the Commission to build on its report COM (2009)584 by coming forward with legislative proposals on EU-wide labelling schemes for meat and dairy products as well as eggs in processed products, thereby informing consumers about the farming methods used and their impact on the welfare of animals, in order to achieve the maximum effective and consistent communication to consumers;
22. Calls on the Commission to introduce labelling for meat from slaughter without stunning;
23. Calls on the Commission to launch an extensive consumer information campaign about European animal welfare legislation, communicating any changes required of European producers as such changes occur, in order for consumers to understand the resulting price increases and to make the efforts of producers more visible and improve the added value of their products;
24. Recalls the role which could be played by a coordinated network of animal welfare centres in the EU in providing significant, high-quality, professional and consistent support to Member States and other stakeholders regarding best practice in animal welfare;
25. Welcomes the Commission's intention to address the issue of compliance with animal welfare law as a matter of priority; encourages the Commission to include in any legislative proposal in this field an obligation for Member States to establish implementation plans and to provide for systems of early identification of Member States struggling to meet deadlines, with the possibility of intervention if deadlines are not met;
26. Calls on the Commission to accord highest priority to animal welfare in the context of negotiations in the WTO (World Trade Organisation) and bilateral agreements;
27. Urges the Commission, when negotiating bilateral trade agreements with third countries, to require those countries to comply with European animal welfare rules when exporting both livestock and meat products to the Community market.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	30.5.2012
Result of final vote	+: 33 -: 16 0: 11
Members present for the final vote	Kriton Arsenis, Sophie Auconie, Pilar Ayuso, Paolo Bartolozzi, Sergio Berlato, Lajos Bokros, Milan Cabrnoch, Martin Callanan, Chris Davies, Esther de Lange, Anne Delvaux, Bas Eickhout, Edite Estrela, Jill Evans, Karl-Heinz Florenz, Elisabetta Gardini, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Matthias Grootte, Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines, Satu Hassi, Jolanta Emilia Hibner, Karin Kadenbach, Christa Klaß, Holger Krahmer, Jo Leinen, Corinne Lepage, Peter Liese, Kartika Tamara Liotard, Zofija Mazej Kukovič, Linda McAvan, Radvilė Morkūnaitė-Mikulėnienė, Miroslav Ouzký, Vladko Todorov Panayotov, Andres Perello Rodriguez, Mario Pirillo, Pavel Poc, Anna Rosbach, Oreste Rossi, Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, Kārlis Šadurskis, Carl Schlyter, Richard Seeber, Theodoros Skylakakis, Bogusław Sonik, Salvatore Tatarella, Anja Weisgerber, Åsa Westlund, Glenis Willmott, Sabine Wils
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Inés Ayala Sender, Gaston Franco, James Nicholson, Justas Vincas Paleckis, Vittorio Prodi, Britta Reimers, Michèle Rivasi, Alda Sousa, Bart Staes, Marita Ulvskog, Andrea Zanoni

