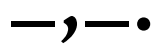


Annual Report

2024



The European Institute
for Animal Law & Policy

ACHIEVING BETTER TREATMENT FOR ANIMALS

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Introduction

Since 2021, the European Institute for Animal Law & Policy has been the leading Brussels-based nonprofit Think-and-Do-Tank dedicated to improving the lives of animals through law and policy. The Institute was established in response to the European Commission's announcement that it would be revising EU animal welfare legislation in the coming years.

The Institute has grown from its origins as a small consultancy firm, then called Animal Law Europe, to the first and only organization in Brussels to deliver legal expertise for animal advocates, animal protection organizations, and public administrations. In addition to advising clients on animal law and policy issues, the Institute also conducts its own public interest missions, both unilaterally and in collaboration with other animal protection organizations. By design, the Institute has created many avenues for collaboration. The projects led by the Institute in 2024 have connected academics, policymakers, and advocates seeking to influence how EU laws are drafted – ultimately moving business activities away from cruel practices, towards a brighter, more humane future for animals and the planet.

This report highlights the achievements of the European Institute for Animal Law & Policy in 2024, as well as the Institute's goals and prospects for the year ahead.

Letter from the Founder

January 15th, 2025

2024 was a year marked by elections around the world, with major campaigns and political shifts at national level and in the EU. Because the EU elections reinforced the right wing majority in the European Parliament, President Ursula von der Leyen remains in office as EU leader but with a more conservative administration. While the previous term ended with disappointment, the Commission going back on their pledge to revise EU farm animal welfare legislation, this new term (2024 – 2029) brings with it uncertainty for animals, as well as signs that we could score crucial victories if we keep the pressure on EU lawmakers.

One of the promising openings for our movement involves the banning of cages in animal agriculture. Animal advocates have been pressing for a ban on cages in the EU for decades, and a major achievement towards this goal was the success of the "End the Cage Age" European Citizens' Initiative, which gathered signatures from nearly 1.4 million EU citizens and led to a political commitment from the European Commission to enact legislation to ban such cruel devices. While efforts to ban cages ran aground against the strong influence of factory farming lobbies on the EU institutions, the new Commissioner for Health and Welfare, Olivér Varhélyi, has committed to reviving the push to achieve a ban, calling cages "obsolete."

Another positive development on the horizon is the adoption of new EU legislation on the welfare of cats and dogs, which is making steady progress in the legislative process. As it stands now, this legislation would better regulate the treatment of cats and dogs sold in the EU by private and commercial breeders. Animal advocates are also working to persuade lawmakers to improve the legislation through amendments that would end the trafficking of puppies and kittens in horrendous conditions.

Despite such hopeful signs, a sober and realistic outlook must concede that the new political dynamics in the EU institutions do not appear favorable to animals. We will have to redouble our efforts in the face of strong opposition to the transition to humane food systems, as well as to the protection of wild animals—starting with wolves—especially since the EU is about to downgrade its protection status. As with the past few years, the years ahead will be challenging as we seek to address the plight of animals in captivity, although opportunities exist to fix antiquated legislation on the keeping and trade of exotic wild animals.

The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy is more equipped and better positioned than ever to confront such challenges. In the past year, we were thrilled to expand our ranks and welcome four new highly skilled and dedicated staff members. These new colleagues will help the Institute achieve its mission by bolstering our legislative advocacy efforts.

At the beginning of what is now our fifth year of operation, it is our privilege to work on behalf of animals with such dedicated colleagues and supporters. In particular, we would like to offer a most heartfelt thank you to our donors, whose generous support allows us to be able to achieve the impact and progress for animals we are proud to share today. Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited to build upon this momentum and look forward to continued collaboration with many of you.

With my very best regards,

Alice Di Concetto,

*Founder, Executive Director, and Chief Legal Advisor
The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy
Brussels, Belgium*

2024 in numbers

12

partner organizations
including 3 we helped *pro bono*

20

presentations at events and
conferences

1

event in Brussels


5


academic publications


150+


hours
of *pro bono* work



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1. The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy

The Origin Story

The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy was launched in March of 2021, less than one year after the European Commission announced its plans to revise EU farm animal welfare legislation. The Institute thus became the first and only consultancy in Brussels to deliver legal expertise for animal advocates, animal protection organizations, and public administrations.

Right away, without paid advertising of any kind, it became clear that the Institute had tapped into a need that was great. A steady stream of animal protection NGOs and public administrations have reached out to request help with disparate types of projects, though all related to law and policy: drafting amendments, reports on specific legal issues, input on lobbying strategies, advice on which regulations to amend, determining national versus EU competence, etc.

The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy now conducts its own strategic public interest missions, both unilaterally and in collaboration with other animal protection organizations.

By design, the Institute creates many avenues for collaboration with academics, policymakers, and advocates who wish to influence how EU laws are drafted, with the aim of creating a brighter, more humane future for animals and the planet.

Areas of Expertise

• Public Affairs and Legislative Advocacy

The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy seeks to influence EU institutions and Member States to improve the treatment of animals through law and policy. The Institute also advises and assists other partner organizations with their EU legislative advocacy activities.

• Research Services

The Institute provides expert legal research services in many languages, including English and French, completed through hourly consultations or longer-term research projects.

• Training

One of the Institute's core missions is to empower the animal advocacy movement in the EU through training and education. Training solutions are bespoke, for all levels and group sizes.

Available courses include animal law and EU law classes for all levels, as well as practical sessions on how professionals can navigate EU institutions and better understand the EU law-making process.

Our goal is to make our partners more performant in their daily work in the short term, and fully autonomous in the longer term.

• Monitoring

We provide monitoring services to EU public affairs professionals involved in animal advocacy.

Our targeted updates cover new legislation, ongoing and prospective public consultations, court rulings (Court of Justice of the EU, European Court of Human Rights, and national courts when relevant to EU law), scientific publications, industry and NGO campaigns, and calls for contributions to publications or events.

Mission and Values

MISSION

The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy's mission is to **improve the treatment of animals through law and policy**, encouraging and participating in lawful methods of change.

The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy firmly believes that knowledge is power, and so strives to empower different actors – nonprofits, public administrations, and academics – to act for animals through expertise and education.

VALUES

• **Animal Protection:** The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy assists on projects which carry the ultimate goal of improving the treatment of animals. Our consultancy does not collaborate on projects that contribute to further commodification of animals, nor do we contribute to humane-washing initiatives that stymie systemic change for animals.

• **Diversity and plurilingualism:** The European Union has 27 Member States and 24 official languages. It is common for professionals in EU public affairs to be multilingual, with a passive command of additional languages. Yet, English is frequently taken up as the most common working language in Brussels. This contributes to the exclusion of populations who have limited abilities in English. For this reason, The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy encourages its contacts to express themselves in their native language if they prefer, or by using additional languages other than English.

To the best of its abilities, The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy offers services in Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese, in addition to English and French.

• **Education and accessibility:** The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy creates accessible educational experiences for learners at any stage of education. Our mission is to empower clients through world class training in animal law and EU public affairs.

The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy further strives to make their contents accessible to people with disabilities.

Please [get in touch](#) if you have suggestions on how to make our work more accessible to all.

• Anti-oppression and inclusiveness:

As a female-founded consultancy, we stand against oppressive behaviors. The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy does not work on projects that contribute to further marginalization of racial and ethnic minorities, low-income communities, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, or other historically oppressed groups. We also do not associate with organizations that fail to ensure a safe and healthy working environment for their staff. The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy further promotes the visibility of all institutional actors, regardless of their size or influence, in addition to individual professionals, regardless of career stage.

• Cross-disciplinarity and solidarity:

The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy aims to contribute to the institutionalization of animal protection objectives by building bridges between and with nonprofit officials, academics, for-profit actors, and public administrations. We believe in the power of synergies and discourage unjustified competitive behavior.

2. Our New Policy Team

In 2024, the European Institute for Animal Law & Policy expanded its staff by creating a public affairs team. The public affairs team focuses exclusively on farm animal welfare law and policy and is composed of four highly specialized experts with a combined 30 years of EU lobbying experience.



Olga Kikou – Director of Advocacy

As the Institute's Director of Advocacy, Olga Kikou spearheads our legislative advocacy strategy. She has a track record of successfully engaging with EU policymakers, having built a strong network within the EU institutions and EU civil society over the course of two decades.

Olga serves as a substitute representative of the Citizens' Committee for the End The Cage Age European Citizens' Initiative, the only ECI to have obtained a positive commitment from the European Commission, and she played an instrumental role in its success. She has over 30 years of experience in civil society advocacy and a wide range of interests and expertise, from advancing animal-related causes to harnessing citizen participation in support of social justice and green issues.

Olga holds a PhD in sociology from the University of Massachusetts.



Gabriela Kubíková – Policy Adviser

A lawyer by training, Gabriela joined a major animal protection organization in Brussels in 2021, where she has advised on EU farm animal protection policy matters. Prior to this appointment, Gabriela gained professional experience in the European Parliament, interning in the AGRI Secretariat, as well as at the European Commission.

Gabriela holds a PhD in law from Charles University in Prague, where she specialized in EU farm animal law. Her dissertation, entitled, "Dobré životní podmínky hospodářských zvířat v právu Evropské unie" (The Welfare of Farmed Animals in EU Law) was published by Wolters Kluwer in 2024.



Aleksandra Terzieva – Public Affairs Adviser

Aleksandra advises the Institute on our communications strategy and press relations efforts. She brings more than a decade of experience in EU public affairs, including in the private and non-profit sectors, the European Commission, and in the media. Over the past six years, she has supported a leading international NGO in the establishment of an EU advocacy office specializing in farmed animal welfare.

Aleksandra is a graduate of the University of Cambridge (Master's in European affairs, 2010) and Adelphi University in New York (Bachelor's Degree in international studies and French, 2009).



Ekaterina Solomina – Policy Adviser

Ekaterina has over 20 years of experience in non-profit management and policy advocacy. Before joining us, she worked in-house and as a consultant with organizations such as the Ford Foundation and with institutions including the University of Hong Kong. Ekaterina's areas of expertise include international development, socio-cultural rights, traditional and new media, sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, and animal welfare.

She is a graduate of the Central European University (MA in International Relations and European Studies) and of the Hertie School in Berlin (Master of Public Administration).

3. Projects and Partnerships

Partner Organizations

Throughout 2024, the European Institute for Animal Law & Policy partnered with many organizations seeking to advance the treatment of animals in the law, including:

- **L214 (France):** The Institute collaborated with L214 and two scientists, Matthias Corion and Simão Monteiro Belos dos Santos, on research related to banning the systematic killing of chicks in EU law. This collaboration resulted in a 2024 update of the white paper published in 2022 by the Institute and L214.
- **The Jeremy Coller Foundation (UK):** The Institute continued working extensively with the Coller Foundation to build the Coller Animal Law Forum (CALF), an interactive database that collates and analyses various laws and policies that impact farmed animals. In 2024, the Institute and the Jeremy Coller Foundation jointly organized two events, held in Brussels and London respectively.
- **AAP Foundation (The Netherlands):** The Institute provided legal expertise and project management services to achieve restrictions on the trade, sale, and private ownership of exotic animals.
- **In Brussels,** the Institute collaborated with the Four Paws European Policy Office to advance the protection of wild animals. The Institute also collaborated with HSI/Europe.

Pro Bono

The Institute provided *pro bono* services to organizations and individuals involved in animal protection. These services included:

- A conference presentation for the “Stop the Grind” coalition, detailing how to reinforce whaling prohibitions in EU law. This presentation took place as part of Ocean Week in the European Parliament.
- The building of an online EU animal law code for and with the Fondation Droit Animal, Ethique & Sciences (Foundation for Animal Law, Ethics & Sciences).

Additionally, our Executive Director Alice Di Concetto had the honor of being appointed to:

- the Advisory Board of the Aquatic Life Institute (ALI), an incredibly dynamic organization that seeks to advance the interests of aquatic animals. In her capacity as a member of the Scientific Committee, Alice advises ALI on all matters related to EU law and policy.
- the French National Ethics Committee on Animal Experimentation. Over the course of her five-year mandate, Alice will play a key role in ensuring that the interests of animals are properly represented in discussions regarding their use in scientific research, as mandated in Directive 2010/63 on the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes.

And our Director of Advocacy, Olga Kikou, had the honor of being appointed:

- As a participant of the Reflection Platform of the newly designated EU Reference Centre for the Welfare of Aquatic Animals (EURCAW-Aqua). EURCAW-Aqua aims to support the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission (DG SANTE) and the Competent Authorities of the Member States and their supporting bodies by providing scientific and technical studies, training, and education on the welfare of aquatic animals. EURCAW-Aqua will mainly focus on the welfare of fish, cephalopods, and decapods.
- As a Member of the Steering Committee of the future European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) for a right to food. This ECI, which has yet to be registered, gathers a coalition of organizations advocating for a sustainable and just food transition.

Alliances and Coalitions the Institute Joined in 2024

- **Stop the Grind:** The Institute became a member of the Stop the Grind coalition in April 2024, joining forces with the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and other animal protection organizations to end the practice of cetacean killing in the Faroe Islands.
- **The European Alliance for Plant-Based Foods (EAPF),** a multi-stakeholder federation that brings together organizations seeking to place plant-based foods at the heart of the transition towards more sustainable and healthy food systems.
- **The Climate Action Network (CAN-Europe),** which is the EU's leading coalition fighting climate change by promoting sustainable climate, energy, and development policies throughout the Union.
- **The EU Food Policy Coalition (FPC),** a Brussels-based coalition that brings together civil society organisations to advocate for sustainable food systems at EU level. As part of the FPC, the Institute collaborates with other organizations on a variety of agri-food issues, including the EU Common Agricultural Policy and aquaculture.
- **The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) NGO Group,** whose goal is to reform the CAP to initiate the transition towards a more sustainable and humane food system in the EU.



4. Publications

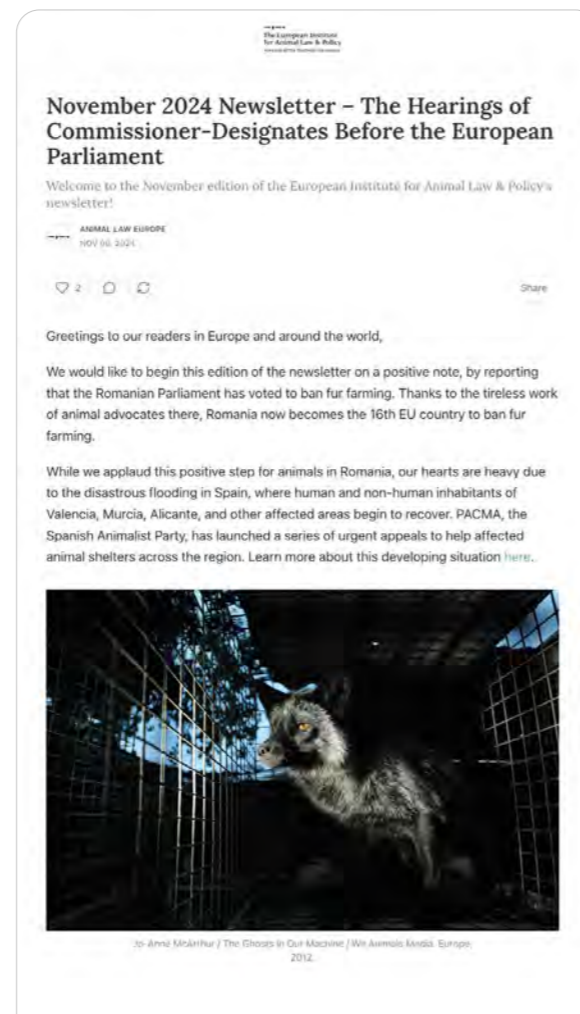
Newsletter

The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy publishes a bi-monthly newsletter. Each newsletter is divided into different sections:

- **Animal law news in the EU**, which includes the most recent developments in EU law and EU Member States' law (including new legislation and court rulings)
- A selection of **international animal law news**
- **Events, publications, and calls for contributions** relevant to all animal law and policy communities and stakeholders (private sector, academia, and NGOs)

The audience of our newsletter primarily consists of academics, animal advocates, think tank researchers, politicians, and students. With 1,000+ subscribers and growing, the readership of our newsletter has more than quadrupled from 2021 to the end of 2024.

In 2024, the Institute's newsletter increased its frequency from quarterly to bi-monthly.



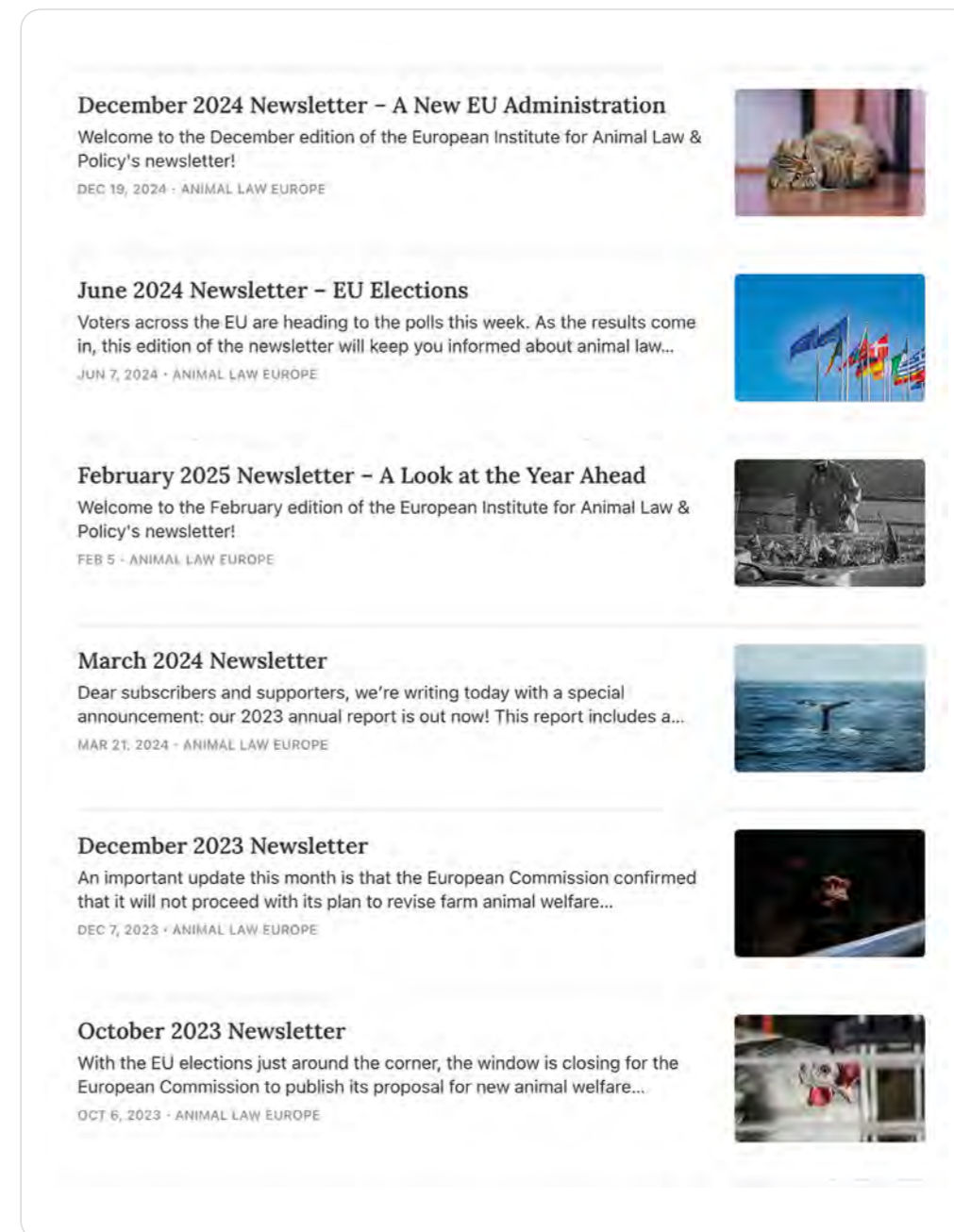
In this edition of the newsletter:

1. Updates from the Institute
2. Commissioner-Designates Hearings in the European Parliament
3. Animal Law News
 - a. EU
 - b. Member States
 - c. International Law
4. Events
5. Job Postings
6. Publications

Updates from the Institute

Events

- On October 8th, the Institute and the [Jeremy Corbyn Foundation](#) co-hosted an event in London on the topic of "A New UK Government Shaping the Future of Sustainable and Animal-Friendly Systems." The event gathered more than 50 participants in the UK animal, food, and environmental law and policy space, and facilitated a fruitful discussion about future opportunities to achieve a more just food system in the UK.



Academic Publications

Staff members of the Institute also produced new animal law research with the publication of several law review articles and book chapters, in addition to a book authored by Gabriela Kubíková.

LAW REVIEW ARTICLES

Alice Di Concetto and Anatole Poinsoy, *L'évaluation éthique des projets de recherche impliquant l'utilisation d'animaux : étude de droit comparé dans l'Union européenne*, Bulletin de l'Académie vétérinaire de France (in French) (2024).¹

BOOKS

Gabriela Kubíková, *Dobré životní podmínky hospodářských zvířat v právu Evropské unie*, Wolters Kluwer (in Czech) (2024).²

BOOK CHAPTERS

Alice Di Concetto, « L'animal utilisé à des fins alimentaires » in *Animal et droit : Bestiaire, patrimoine juridique, défis contemporains*, Claire Bouglé-Le Roux and Nadège Reboul-Maupin (eds.), Lexis Nexis (in French) (2024).³

Alice Di Concetto, "EU Animal Law" in *Nordic Animal Law: Welfare and Rights*, Birgitta Wahlberg (ed.), Ethics International Press (2024).⁴

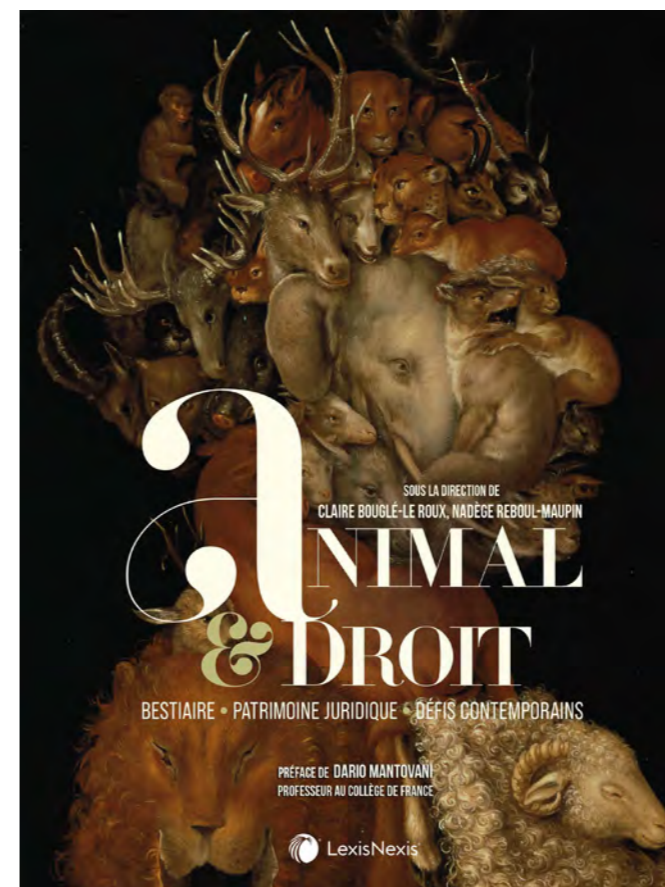
Aude-Solveig Epstein and Alice Di Concetto, "Protéger l'environnement ou les animaux? Par-delà le clivage entre droit de l'environnement et droit de l'animal," in *Éthique environnementale pour juristes*, Jochen Sohle and Christophe Bouriau (eds.), Mare & Martin (in French) (2024).⁵



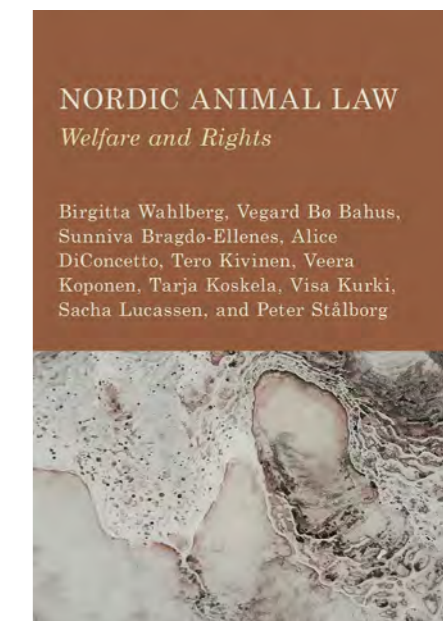
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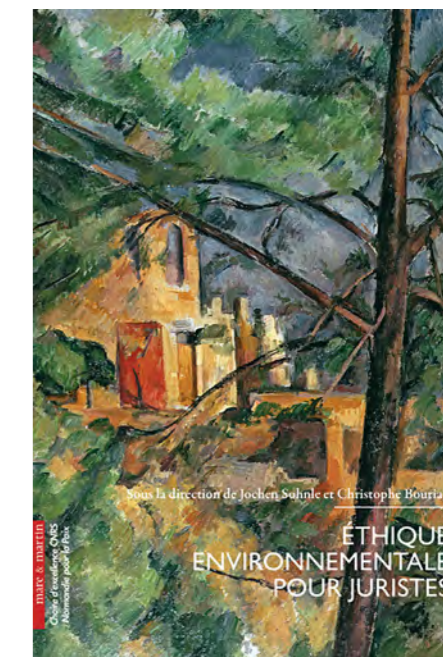
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4.



5.

5. Events

Launch of the CALF Events Series with the Jeremy Coller Foundation

On March 14th, The Institute and the [Jeremy Coller Foundation](#) co-hosted an event in Brussels on the topic of "Shaping the Future of Sustainable Food Systems Post-2024 EU Elections."

The event gathered over 50 participants in the EU animal law and policy space, fostering a productive discussion on lessons learned in 2023 and future opportunities to create a more just food system in the EU.

On October 8th, the Institute and the Coller Foundation co-hosted an event in London on the topic of "A New UK Government Shaping the Future of Sustainable and Animal-Friendly Systems." The event gathered over 50 participants in the UK animal, food, and environmental law and policy space, facilitating a productive discussion on future opportunities to create a more just food system in the UK.



"A New UK Government Shaping the Future of Sustainable and Animal-Friendly Systems" October 8th, London.



"Shaping the Future of Sustainable Food Systems Post-2024 EU Elections" March 14th, Brussels.

Other Events

Throughout 2024, the Institute's staff participated in many events to inform the animal advocacy community about changes in EU animal law and policy.



February 22nd, Paris, France, Alice Di Concetto

Composition et gouvernance des autorités compétentes pour l'évaluation des projets de recherche, étude de droit comparé en Union européenne (in French)

Académie vétérinaire de France



April 12th, European Parliament, Strasbourg, France
Alice Di Concetto

Intelligence artificielle et productions animales: L'IA au service de l'élevage, du transport et de l'abattage (in French)

Strasbourg University Law School

2024

March 15th, Milan, Italy, Alice Di Concetto

Animals in EU Law

(Guest Lecture)

University of Milano-Bicocca Law School



June 1st, Paris, France, Alice Di Concetto

L'abattage rituel en droit européen (in French)

Œuvre d'assistance aux bêtes d'abattoir (OABA)

June 6th, Liverpool (UK), Alice Di Concetto

Sentient Beings, Food Products, and Vectors of Disease: The Multi-Faceted Status of Animals in EU Law

University of Liverpool, School of Law

May 28th, Paris, France
Alice Di Concetto (with Hugo Marro-Menotti)

Animals in the Law: Questioning the Property / Other-Than-Property Duality

Sorbonne Law School

June 6th, Liverpool (UK), Gabriela Kubíková
Legalized Suffering: The Transport of Live Animals in the European Union
 University of Liverpool, School of Law

July 19th, New York City, USA, Alice Di Concetto
Animal Rights and Human Rights: Enforcement Mechanisms in Corporate Law
 Union Internationale des Avocats

August 20th, Antwerp, Belgium, Alice Di Concetto
Farmed Animals and EU Law (Guest Lecture)
 University of Antwerp, Animal Law Summer School



September 25th, Online, Alice Di Concetto
Animals in the New EU Administration: Recent Developments and Prospective Change
 Dutch Society for Animal Law



September 7th, Milan, Italy, Alice Di Concetto
The Treatment of Animals within the Fashion Industry Under EU Law
 Union Internationale des Avocats



October 4th, Online, Alice Di Concetto
Developing Supportive Policies and Regulations to End Whaling in Europe
 Stop the Grind Coalition



September 14th, Warsaw, Poland, Olga Kikou
What Happened to EU Animal Welfare Laws? The European Commission's Failure to Deliver on its Commitments
 Conference on Animal Rights in Europe (CARE)



October 8th, Paris, France, Anatole Poinso
Les leviers juridiques de la transition vers des systèmes d'élevages vertueux
 (in French)
 INRAE

October 11th, online, Alice Di Concetto
Farm Animal Protection Laws in France and the EU
 Union Internationale des Avocats



October 31st, online, Olga Kikou
EU Policy Developments
 Animal Welfare Food Community Japan

December 6th, online, Olga Kikou
The Revision of the EU Legislation for Farmed Animals: Challenges and Opportunities
 Democritus University of Thrace Law School, Greece

November 7th, online, Alice Di Concetto
Farmed Animal Law in the EU (Guest Lecture)
 Vermont Law School

December 12th, Paris, France, Alice Di Concetto
Law and Economics of Animal Welfare (Roundtable)
 Paris-Panthéon Law School



November 13th, Paris, France, Alice Di Concetto
Droit et controverse: éléments de réflexion pour une approche "située" du droit de l'animal (in French)
 Réseau ORCA

2025

6. Media

The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy was regularly featured in the media in 2024.

2024



February 11th, Op Ed
(Alice Di Concetto, co-signed)

JO 2024 : Pour que les Jeux olympiques de Paris soient ceux du bien-être des chevaux (in French)
Le Parisien



January 30th
Op Ed (Alice Di Concetto, co-signed)

La chasse aux trophées constitue une menace pour la survie de nombreuses espèces (in French)
Le Monde



July 8th, quote (Alice Di Concetto)
Faut-il accorder la citoyenneté aux animaux pour mieux les protéger? (in French)
Usbek & Rica



May 15th, quote (Olga Kikou)
After UK Ban on Live Animal Exports, NGOs Step Up Pressure on the European Commission
Euractiv



February 28th, Blog Post
(Alice Di Concetto, with Aude-Solveig Epstein)
Les juges ne devraient pas laisser la promotion du bien-être animal servir de cheval de Troie à l'intolérance religieuse (in French)
Le Club des juristes



July 19th, quote (Olga Kikou)
Ukraine's EU Accession Provides Chance to Transform Animal Welfare
Food Ingredients First



June 12th, quote (Olga Kikou)
Hungarian Presidency Proposes Temperature Monitoring in New Animal Transport Rules
Euractiv

The Brussels Times

July 19th, quote (Olga Kikou)

The Missing commissioner in von der Leyen's Second Commission
The Brussels Times

#STOP THE GRIND

August 1st, blog Post (Alice Di Concetto)

What Can the European Union Do to Stop the Grind?
StopTheGrind.Org



August 8th, podcast Interview (Olga Kikou)
Is It Time for a Just Food Transition in the EU?
European Vegan Summit Talks

EURACTIV

July 26th, quote (Olga Kikou)

NGOs Pressure Commission to Include Animal Welfare in Next Vision of Future of Farming
Euractiv

ENDS EUROPE

September 5th, quote (Olga Kikou)

Commission Urged to Embrace Consensus on Future of Farming
ENDS Europe



December 2nd, quote (Olga Kikou)

The Factory Farming Lobby Uses the Same Tactics as the Tobacco and Fossil Fuel Industries (in Finnish)
Yle



MEDIAPART

November 27th, quote (Alice Di Concetto)

L'embarrassant commissaire hongrois à la santé et au bien-être animal (in French)
Mediapart



September 18th, blog Post (Olga Kikou)
How Big Ag Uses Farmers to Influence European Democracies
Faunalytics



December 5th and 17th, podcast Interview (Alice Di Concetto)

"L'UE, à la pointe du welfarisme?" et "Europe: Comment sortir des blocages?" (in French)
Comme un poisson dans l'eau

The Brussels Times

November 27th, Op-Ed (Olga Kikou)

Change of Guard: From Engaged Commissioner to Dedicated Commissioner for Animal Welfare
The Brussels Times

7. The Year Ahead

Advocacy

- Revision of EU Farm Animal Welfare Legislation
This coming year, the European Commission's proposal for a new regulation on animal transport will progress further in the legislative process, with a vote on the European Parliament's amendments scheduled for the end of 2025. Our hope is that the Parliament will improve the Commission's proposal in key areas, such as in the export of animals.

2025 may also mark the year when the European Commission resumes preparatory work for a ban on the use of cages in animal agriculture, as announced by the European Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare, Olivér Varhélyi, with the proposal expected in 2026. However, the exact timeline for this reform remains unclear as of the writing of this report.

- A New EU Companion Animal Welfare Law
The proposal for new regulation on the welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability will also progress in the legislative process, with a vote by the European Parliament scheduled to take place as early as the first half of 2025.

This Proposal is groundbreaking because, for the first time, the EU has put forth a legislative proposal specifically on the welfare of companion animals. To this point, EU legislation has only dealt with companion animals as vectors of disease (in animal health regulations) or as commodities (in transport legislation), rather than as sentient beings whose existence carries an ethical component. However, the Proposal needs additional improvements to make it effective. Amendments we hope to see the Parliament adopt include the requirement of mandatory microchipping and registration of all cats and dogs across the Union, the inter-operability of national databases of registered cats and dogs, and the adoption of minimum criminal penalties for those who violate minimum companion animal welfare standards.

Events

The coming year will feature numerous events on the topic of farm animal welfare and food transition, which we will organize in Brussels. The first of these will be an exhibition raising awareness about the animal welfare and environmental externalities caused by factory farming, scheduled to take place in March at the European Parliament.

Publications

In 2025, we expect to present a wide range of publications on topics related to fish welfare in aquaculture, insect protection in EU law, agricultural exceptionalism in EU environmental law, and EU companion animal law. The Institute will also publish several reports in partnership with other organizations, including on chick culling and wild animal law and policy.

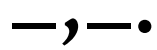
Additionally, the Institute will launch a new type of publication, called "Year-In-Review," published in the first quarter of each year. This publication will provide an annual review of developments in EU animal law. Our first edition of "Year-In-Review" is available now on our website and it provides an overview of the European Commission's past term (2019 – 2024).

New Team Members

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors and supporters, the Institute will further expand its team in 2025 to strengthen communications and operations support.



—, —•
The European Institute
for Animal Law & Policy
ACHIEVING BETTER TREATMENT FOR ANIMALS



The European Institute
for Animal Law & Policy

ACHIEVING BETTER TREATMENT FOR ANIMALS