

Annual Report

2025



The European Institute
for Animal Law & Policy

ACHIEVING BETTER TREATMENT FOR ANIMALS



The European Institute
for Animal Law & Policy

ACHIEVING BETTER TREATMENT FOR ANIMALS

Table of Contents

Introduction4

Letter from the Founder5

2025 in Numbers 6-7

1. Staff Updates in 20258-9

2. Legislative Advocacy10-12

3. Legal Team 13

4. Projects and Partnerships..... 14-15

5. Publications..... 16-20

6. Events21-28

7. Media Appearances 29-31

8. Reflecting on 2025 and Looking Ahead to 202632-34

The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy.....36-37

Introduction

Since 2021, the European Institute for Animal Law & Policy (Animal Law Europe) has been the leading Brussels-based nonprofit dedicated to improving the lives of animals through law and policy. It was established in response to the European Commission's 2020 announcement that it would undertake a revision of EU animal welfare legislation in the years to follow. Since then, the Institute has grown from its origins as a small consultancy firm advising clients on animal law and policy issues to the first and only organization in Brussels to deliver legal expertise for animal advocates, animal protection organizations, and public administrations. With the addition of its policy staff in 2024 – a team of highly specialized experts with a combined 30 years of EU lobbying experience – the Institute has become one of the foremost advocates for farm animal welfare law and policy reform within the EU.

Our Institute also conducts its own public interest missions, both unilaterally and in collaboration with other animal protection organizations. Our projects have connected academics, policymakers, and advocates seeking to influence how EU laws are drafted – ultimately moving business activities away from cruel practices, toward a brighter, more humane future for animals and the planet.

This report highlights our achievements in 2025, as well as our goals and prospects for the year ahead.

Letter from the Founder

January 5th, 2026

2025 saw the second von der Leyen administration reveal its priorities for animal protection in Europe. Notably in the EU, the Farm to Fork strategy faded from view, the European Commission was taken to court for its faltering End the Cage Age commitment, and the legislative agenda for animals narrowed to cats and dogs, and transport, with long-standing protections stripped from wolves. While the new cats and dogs legislation was a welcome development, it could and should have gone further. There were positive developments for animals used in fur farming, though on the whole, the absence of the long-promised Animal Welfare Act revision from the Commission Work Programme remains deeply concerning.

For the European Institute for Animal Law & Policy, 2025 was a year of strengthening our legislative advocacy efforts, expanding our research capabilities, and refining our communications to meet an EU landscape in flux. It was also a year that made clear there has been a palpable shift in how animal welfare is discussed within EU institutions. While acknowledging our current obstacles, the progress achieved over the past decade is unmistakable.

This shift is especially meaningful to me as 2026 marks ten years since the completion of my animal law degree, when I began working full time in this field. A decade ago, the Commission's official

position described EU farm animal welfare legislation as advanced and effective. Today, DG Santé openly concedes that that legislation fails to deliver on its animal protection goals as well as its economic objectives. This sea change in the expressed views of such a consequential player in the Commission reflects a growing institutional recognition that improved protection for animals need not be in tension with the functioning of markets. Rather, justice and compassion for animals can actually contribute to a fairer and more effective economic order.

Of course, such a turning point – though encouraging – has not (yet) produced a fully satisfying victory for us. The road ahead is uncertain, and much of the hardest work still lies before us. But we enter our sixth year with a renewed sense of purpose, bolstered by colleagues and supporters whose dedication makes our mission possible. To our donors in particular, we extend our deepest gratitude: your support enables the impact for animals detailed in this annual report.

Looking ahead to 2026, we remain committed to advancing evidence-based, effective animal law and policy in the EU, and we look forward to continued collaboration with many of you in the year ahead.

With my very best regards,

Alice Di Concetto

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



2025 in Numbers

15

partner organizations
including 5 we helped *pro bono*

22

presentations at events
and conferences

2

events in Brussels

9

academic publications

120+

hours
of *pro bono* work

19

public consultations/
calls for evidence submitted

9

staff members
(on 31st December 2025)

1067

newsletter subscribers
(on 24th December 2025)

3571

followers on LinkedIn
(on 24th December 2025)

14.8k

impressions for best-performing
LinkedIn post of 2025

1. Staff Updates in 2025

In 2025, the European Institute for Animal Law & Policy reached a total of nine staff members. With the expansion of our communications team, and the addition of our Director of Operations, the law and policy staff are now more supported to achieve their goals.



Vienna Leigh
Communications Specialist

Vienna joined the Institute in January and is responsible for developing communications materials that strengthen the visibility of our work, with a special focus on supporting our policy advocacy agenda. She holds a master's degree in English Literature from the University of Leeds and began her career in publishing, before moving into journalism and later into science communication. Since 2019, she has dedicated her career to nonprofit organisations focused on animals and the environment.



Rayelle Matthews
Director of Operations

Rayelle is a multidisciplinary operations leader with extensive experience in the technology and music sectors, as well as in mission-driven enterprises. With more than a decade of work across start-ups and scale-ups, she has led initiatives in product management, support operations, and business analysis. Since joining the Institute as Director of Operations in May, Rayelle has provided strategic and operational guidance in a field where her values and professional focus align.



Gladys Le Goff
Junior Researcher

Gladys joined the Institute in 2025, first as a Research Assistant and later as a Junior Researcher, supporting our EU animal law and policy work. She has been active in animal advocacy since 2020 and brings experience in public policy and economics through roles in public institutions and nonprofit organizations, both in France and internationally. In 2025, Gladys completed a Master's degree in Public Policy at Sciences Po (Paris, France), where she also earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Humanities in 2022. She has additionally studied philosophy and economics at UCLA (Los Angeles, USA).



Hugo Menotti
Legal Advocacy Manager

Hugo has ten years of experience in human rights, having worked with politicians, lawyers, and individuals in vulnerable situations across administrative and criminal courts, as well as EU institutions. He then spent more than three years providing political advice to approximately 20 animal welfare NGOs in France, before joining the Institute in September. He holds a double law degree from Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne University, the Università degli Studi di Firenze, and Amsterdam Law School, as well as a master's degree in human rights from Paris II Panthéon-Assas University. He also teaches legislative drafting at the University of Limoges (France).

2. Legislative Advocacy

Policy Work

In addition to our daily policy work activities, the Policy Team issued more than 30 letters (including joint letters and statements) to the EU institutions in 2025. Our team also contributed to more than 15 public consultations and calls for evidence, and participated in studies conducted by external consultants for the EU institutions.

KEY PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS WE PARTICIPATED IN 2026:

- **March:** Public consultation: Public Procurement Directives, focusing on Directive 2014/24/EU.
- **May:** Public consultation: EU's next long-term budget (Multiannual Financial Framework; MFF); performance of the EU budget.
- **May:** Public consultation: EU's next long-term budget (MFF); implementing EU funding with Member States and regions.
- **July:** Call for Evidence: On-farm animal welfare for certain animals: modernisation of EU legislation.
- **August:** Call for Evidence: The "Fur Free Europe" European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) (assessment).
- **August:** Call for Evidence: Consumer Agenda 2025-2030.
- **September:** Call for Evidence: EU Civil Society Strategy.
- **September:** Call for Evidence: Cardiovascular Health Plan.
- **October:** Call for Evidence: Food and Feed Safety.
- **December:** Public consultation: On-farm animal welfare for certain animals: modernisation of EU legislation.
- **December:** Call for Evidence/Public consultation: Revision of EU rules on public procurement.

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TO OTHER INITIATIVES:

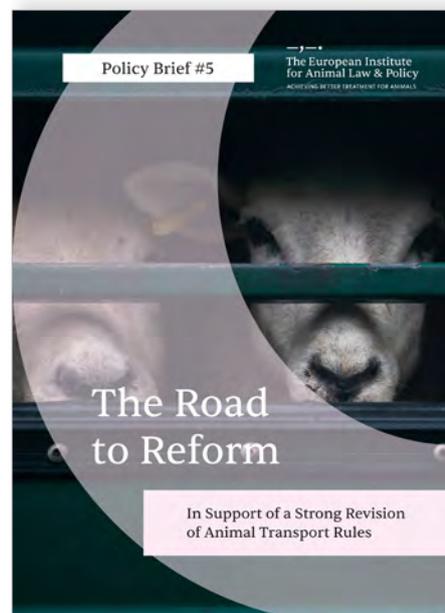
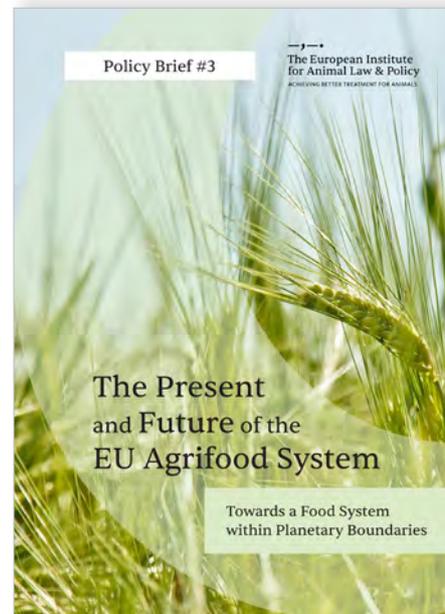
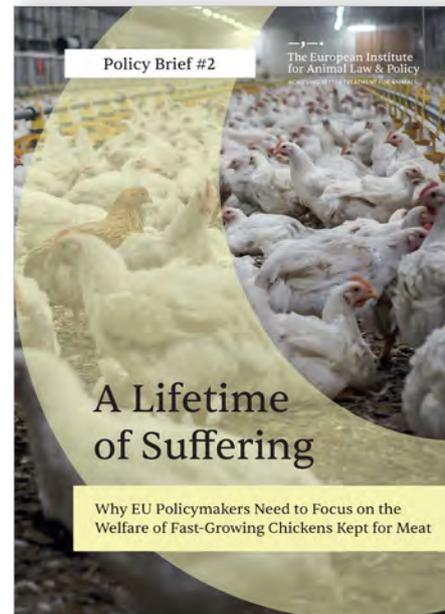
- **May:** Incentives to climate change mitigation across the agri-food value chain (DG CLIMA).
- **May:** European Court of Auditors Special Report on NGO funding.
- **June:** Joint Research Center Stakeholder Consultation on Overview and Analysis of Sustainable Public Procurement in the EU food sector.
- **August:** CAN-Europe call for the EU's Civil Society Strategy to safeguard democracy and climate action.
- **November:** Survey by Ecorys in support of a study conducted to support the European Commission's assessments following the "Fur Free Europe" ECI.
- **December:** Survey by Ecorys in support of the impact assessment on the modernization of on-farm animal welfare for certain animals.
- **December:** Public consultation on the Development of the Priorities and Policy Programme for Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2026.
- **December:** Targeted survey by Open Evidence for DG SANTE Study on Animal Welfare Indicators.

Policy Briefs

The Policy Team published four policy briefs in 2025:

- **May:** A Lifetime of Suffering: Why EU Policymakers Need to Focus on the Welfare of Fast-Growing Chickens Kept for Meat
- **June:** The Present and Future of the EU Agrifood System: Towards a Food System within Planetary Boundaries
- **September:** Still Trapped: On the Widespread Support for the Long-Awaited Ban on Cages in the EU
- **October:** The Road to Reform: In Support of a Strong Revision of Animal Transport Rules

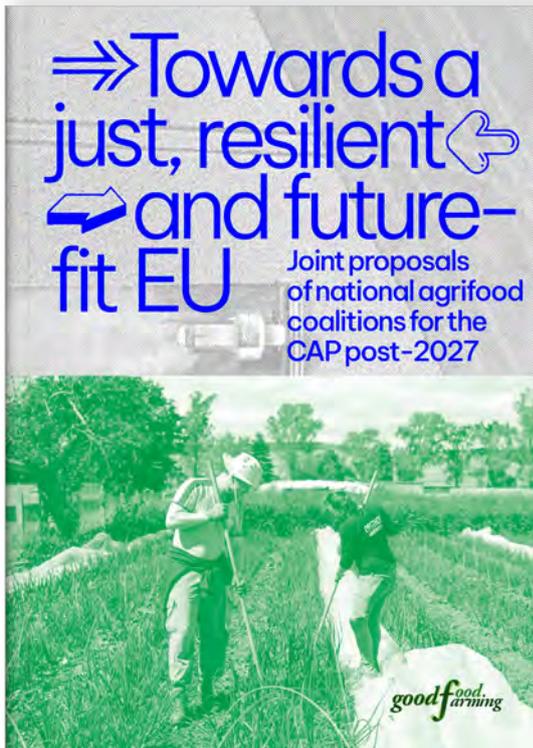
All our policy briefs are available in the Areas of Work section of our website.



Joint Reports/Position Papers

We contributed to the following external policy documents:

- **March:** Joint papers with the European Environmental Bureau on factory farming, distributed at our exhibition and to MEPs' mailboxes.
- **June:** Joint position paper on the CAP, coordinated by Good Food Good Farming: "Towards a Just, Resilient & Future-Fit EU."
- **October:** Support for the re-publication of the EU Food Policy Coalition's position paper, "Discovering the Role of Food Environments for Sustainable Food Systems."



3. Legal Team

In 2025, the Legal Team supported partner organizations and the Legislative Advocacy Team across a wide range of areas, such as depopulation rules, chick killing, reporting rules on on-farm mortality rates, the status of farmed animals in sanctuaries in EU law, governance rules of animal ethics committees in the EU Member States, and the protection of frogs killed for human consumption in EU and French law.

The team also conducted research on strategic litigation, and continued to expand their monitoring, publication, and dissemination efforts.

PUBLICATIONS BY THE LEGAL TEAM:

- **February:** Research Note, "The Treatment of Farmed Fish Under EU Law"
- **June:** Research Note, "Agricultural Exceptionalism in EU Environmental Law"
- **October:** White Paper, "The Protection of Cats and Dogs in EU Law"
- Our monthly newsletter (in English and French).
- Our animal law review: Recent Developments in EU Animal Law (2019–2024).



Junior Researcher Gladys Le Goff (with Legal Advocacy Manager Hugo Menotti) at the French National Assembly, contributing to a hearing on the motion for an EU Resolution to adapt the legal status of animals in sanctuaries.

4. Projects and Partnerships

Partner Organizations

Throughout 2025, the European Institute for Animal Law & Policy partnered with many organizations seeking to advance the treatment of animals in the law.

THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU (BRUSSELS)

We collaborated with the European Environmental Bureau to organize an exhibition at the European Parliament, "Factory Farming: Unveiling the Hidden Costs" from March 24th to 27th. (See page xx for more details).

ALMO NATURE/FONDAZIONE CAPELLINO (ITALY) AND DEUTSCHER TIERSCHUTZBUND (GERMANY)

On October 17th, we co-organized a webinar to launch our joint white paper, "The Protection of Cats and Dogs in EU Law: From Ownership to Responsibility," published with Almo Nature/Fondazione Capellino and Deutscher Tierschutzbund.

LA FONDATION DROIT ANIMAL, ÉTHIQUE ET SCIENCES (FRENCH FOUNDATION FOR ANIMAL LAW) (FRANCE)

We organized a major conference with LFDA on November 18th in Brussels, convening leading

voices in the field to advance the legal and policy agenda for animals in Europe. (See page xx for more details). The event provided a platform for the first presentation of the forthcoming Codex Animalis (EU Animal Law Code), a searchable online database of all relevant EU legislation and relevant court rulings by the Court of Justice of the EU, which we have been developing with LFDA since 2022.

ETHICAL SEAFOOD RESEARCH (UK)

Our seventh Research Note, published in February, was on the topic of "The Treatment of Farmed Fish Under EU Law" and was written in collaboration with Wasseem Emam and Carlos Vera from Ethical Seafood Research. On April 3rd, Gabriela Kubíková (Legislative Advocacy Manager) and Alice Di Concetto (Chief Legal Advisor) presented at a roundtable organized by Ethical Seafood Research and the Global Research Network on "The Humane Slaughter of Aquatic Animals", organized in recognition of World Animal Aquatic Animal Day.

THE JEREMY COLLER FOUNDATION (UK)

On March 20th, we co-hosted an event in Paris with the Jeremy Collier Foundation, "Bridging the Policy Gap – How French Agricultural Interests Influence the EU Agenda Setting." We also released an update of our legislative advocacy guide, "Advocating for Animals: A Guide to Legislative



Advocacy," published by the Jeremy Collier Foundation, the Center for Animal Legal Studies at Lewis & Clark Law School, and Animal Ask.

In addition, we continued working extensively with the Collier Foundation to build the Collier Animal Law Forum (CALF), an interactive database that collates and analyzes various laws and policies that impact farmed and fished animals; and in October, Alice Di Concetto co-moderated a CALF webinar on "Climate Change and Factory Farming: The Role of Litigation-Based Strategies in Challenging the Status Quo Confirmation."

Other Projects

- We carried out research with Four Paws, Stop the Grind, CAS-International, and Access to Justice for Animals.
- We undertook translation work *pro bono* for L214.
- We contributed to a motion for a European Resolution to adapt the legal status of animals in sanctuaries, tabled by French MPs Gabriel Amard and Anne Stambach-Terreñoir. It calls for farmed animals removed from the food chain – whose meat or animal-derived products were deemed unfit for consumption – to be recognized as companion animals, and for these protections to be harmonized across Europe.

Association Coexister, the Oeuvre d'assistance aux betes d'abattoirs (OABA), and La Fondation Brigitte Bardot were also involved in its preparation.

Appointments in 2025

- Gabriela Kubíková was appointed as a member of the board of the Czech Society for Environmental Law in March.
- Gabriela's Ph.D. thesis won the Josef Vavroušek Prize, awarded by the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, in September.

Alliances and Coalitions Joined in 2025

- Over the summer, we joined the Transform Bottom Trawling Coalition. As a new member, we are proud to work alongside other leading organizations to end bottom trawling – the most destructive form of industrial fishing, which indiscriminately captures marine life and devastates seabed ecosystems.

5. Publications

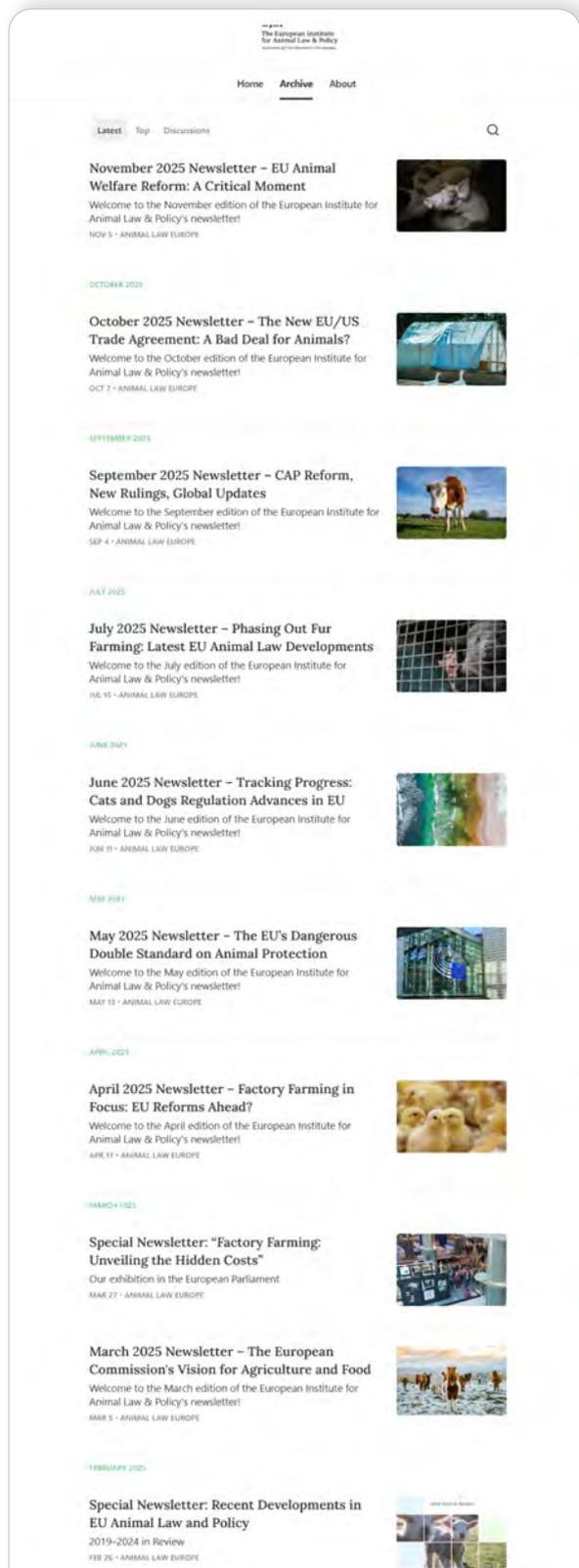
Newsletter

The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy publishes a bi-monthly newsletter. Our readership reached 1067 subscribers by the end of 2025, up from 720 at the close of 2024 – an increase of 48%.

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.



EU Animal Law in Review

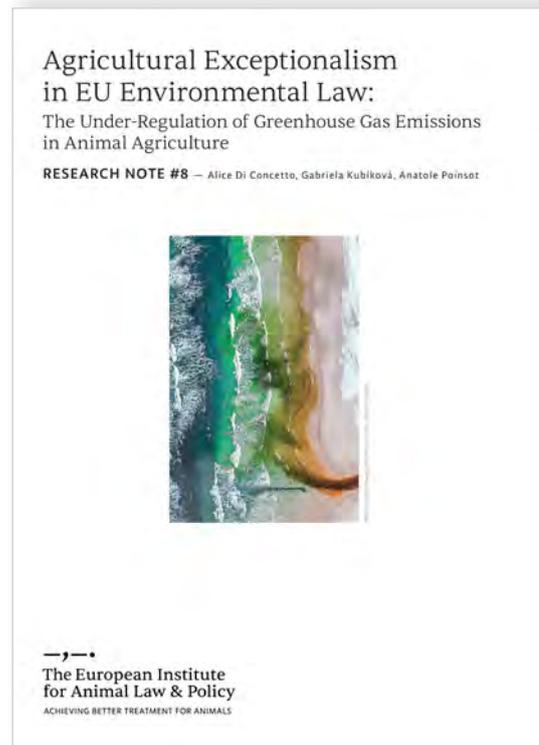
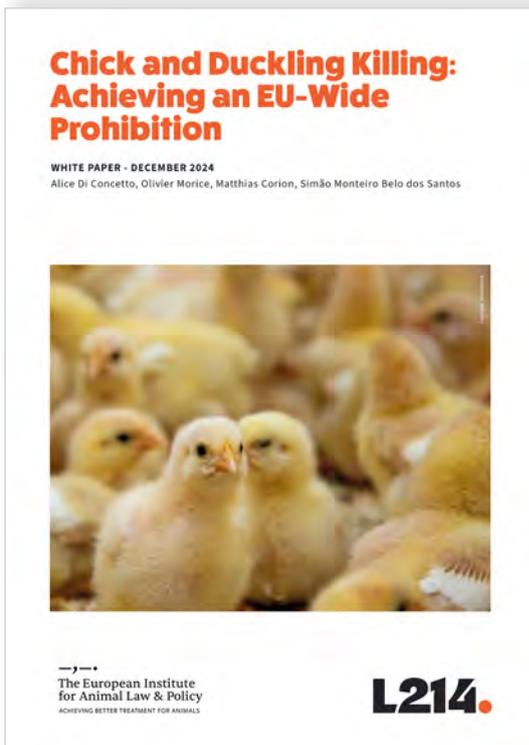
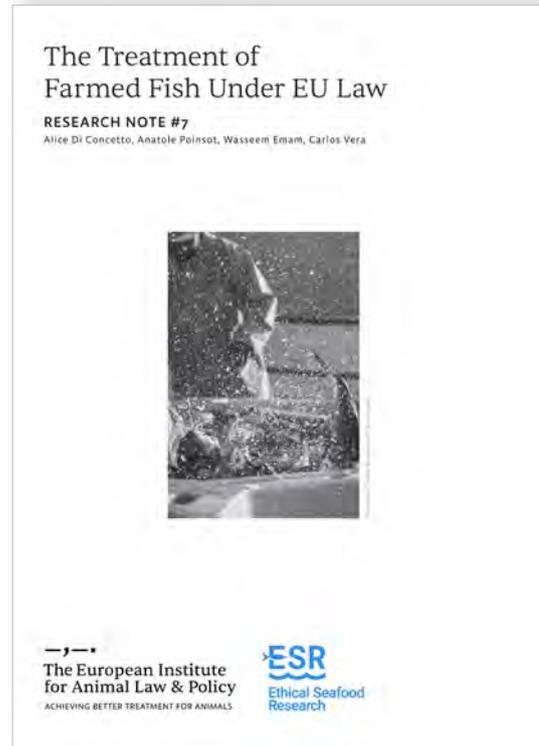
2025 saw the official launch of our new publication series, "Recent Developments in EU Animal Law." Our inaugural publication in this series was a five-year review of EU animal law, highlighting the most significant developments from 2019 to 2024 at both the EU level and within the 27 EU Member States, which we published in English in February and French in September. While the political dynamics in the EU do not appear favorable to animals, this first edition is full of reasons for optimism, as advocates have achieved key wins across the EU over the past five years, often overcoming challenging political environments.

Overall, this series will develop and progress as we grow our presence in each EU Member State, and starting in 2026, we will release annual reviews to provide animal advocates in the EU and globally with a unique resource, summarizing the positive strides made by our movement for animals, as well as the ongoing challenges faced in legislatures and courts. The first of these, the 2025 annual review, will be released in early 2026.



Research Notes, Special Reports, and White Papers

- In February, we published our seventh Research Note on the topic of **“The Treatment of Farmed Fish Under EU Law,”** written in collaboration with Wasseem Emam and Carlos Vera from Ethical Seafood Research.
- In April, we published an update of our **white paper on the killing of chicks and ducklings,** co-published with L214 and co-authored with Dr. Matthias Corion and Dr. Simão Monteiro Belo dos Santos. This version provides the latest information on technologies that could spare hundreds of millions of chicks from being killed in egg industry hatcheries.
- In June, we published a research note on **“Agricultural Exceptionalism in EU Environmental Law,”** examining the policy and regulatory instruments currently in place to limit and regulate greenhouse gas emissions from animal agriculture in the EU. It further provides a detailed account of the nitrogen crisis in the Netherlands and explores the

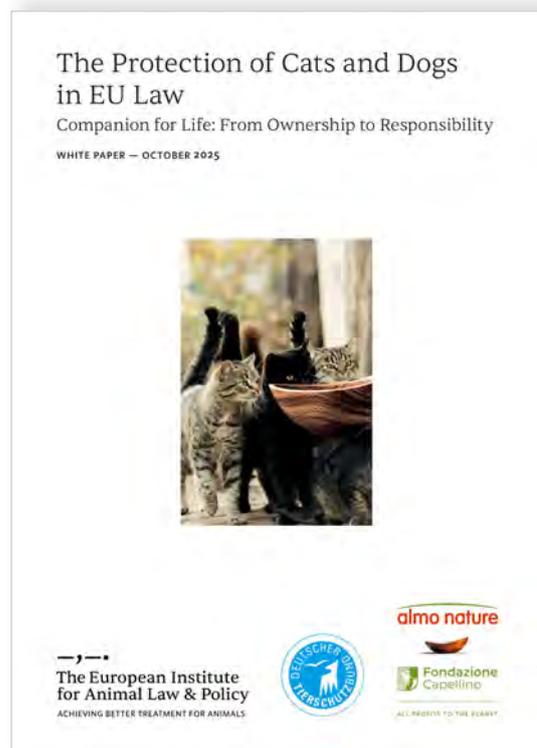
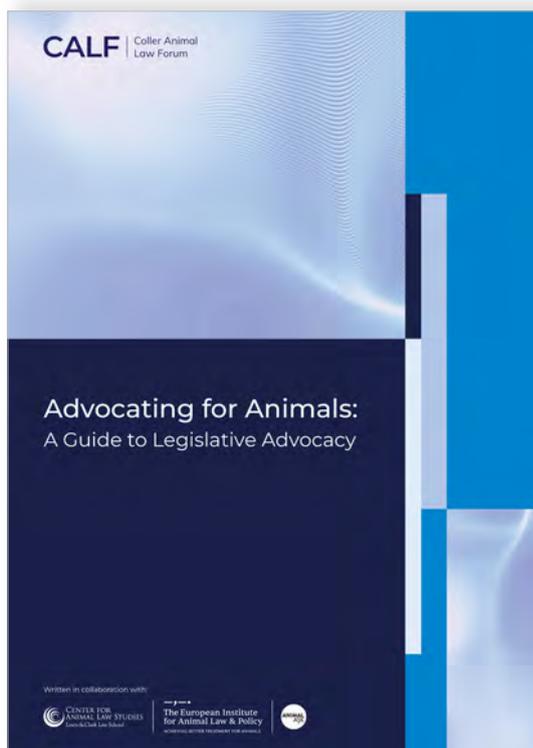


political context surrounding the 2024 revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive. Sandra Beuving (Dierencoalitie) and Roberto Talenti (Ph.D. Candidate in Agri-Environmental Law at Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa, Italy) provided invaluable feedback on an early draft of the Note.

- Over the summer, we released an update of our legislative advocacy guide, **“Advocating for Animals: A Guide to Legislative Advocacy,”** published by the Jeremy Collier Foundation, the Center for Animal Legal Studies at Lewis & Clark Law School, and Animal Ask. This update of the 2023 version provides the latest information on the EU institutions.
- The white paper, **“The Protection of Cats and Dogs in EU Law: From Ownership to Responsibility,”** published with Almo Nature/ Fondazione Capellino and Deutscher

Tierschutzbund in October, includes nine recommendations that we would like to see codified in the upcoming EU Regulation on the Protection of Dogs and Cats. These recommendations garnered endorsements from 15 organizations, including Four Paws, Eurogroup for Animals, LNDC Animal Protection, and La Fondation Brigitte Bardot.

- During the year, Legislative Advocacy Manager Gabriela Kubíková authored two new policy briefs: one on the use of cages in EU animal agriculture, and the other on animal transport. Both are available on our website.



External Academic Publications

Staff members produced new animal law research with the publication of several law review articles, book chapters, and other articles.

LAW REVIEW ARTICLES

Alice Di Concetto, *Les productions animales intensives en droit : état des lieux et perspectives de transitions*, and Anatole Poinsoot & Eugénie Duval, *Le droit de la santé animale : un frein à la transition agroécologique ?* *Revue Juridique de l'Environnement* (2025) (in French).

Alice Di Concetto, *Beyond Ecological and Economic Value: Taking into Account Wild Animals' Inherent Interests in EU Environmental Law*, *International Journal of Wildlife Law & Policy* (2025).

Ilaria Cimadori, Alice Di Concetto, and Khara Grieger, *The Protection of Selectively Bred and Gene Edited Farm Animals under EU Law*, *European Journal of Risk Regulation* (2025).

Alice Di Concetto and Hugo Menotti, *Animals in the Law: Questioning the Property / Other-Than-Property Duality*, *Sorbonne Doctoral Law Review* (2025).

Alice Di Concetto, *El desenvolupament gradual de les competències de la UE en matèria de legislació i polítiques de benestar animal*, *Revista Catalana De Dret Públic (Catalan Public Law Review)* (2025) (in Catalan).

Gabriela Kubíková, *Welfare of Farmed Animals in European Union Law: The Challenging Protection of Sentient Beings in the Agricultural Sector*, *Opolskie Studia Admini-stracyjno-Prawne* (2025).

Hugo Menotti, *Assimilation of Companion Animals to the Legal Regime Applicable to Baggage in Air Transport: Iberia (C-218/24)*, *EU Law Live*, 20/11/2025.

Anatole Poinsoot, *L'interdiction de la caudectomie routinière en élevage porcin : état des lieux et perspectives*. *Revue de Droit Rural* (2025).

BOOK CHAPTERS

Alice Di Concetto, "Animals Used in Research and EU and International Law" and "Overview of EU Animal Law" in *Elgar Concise Encyclopedia of Animal Law*, Joan Schaffner (ed.), Edward Elgar Publishing (2025).

BOOK REVIEWS

Gabriela Kubíková, "Animal Law: Challenges and Themes, Simon Brooman, Debbie Legge, Deborah Rook and Rachel Dunn, 5m Books, 2025." *Journal of International Wildlife Law & Policy*, Routledge (2025).

OTHER ARTICLES

Alice Di Concetto, *Polítiques de protecció animal a la UE*, *Eines (Revista de la Fundació Irla)*, 'El rept del benestar animal' (2025) (in Catalan).

Gabriela Kubíková, *Fur Farming in the EU: The Beginning of the End?*, *UIA International Association of Lawyers*, online.

6. Events

Exhibition: “Factory Farming: Unveiling the Hidden Costs”

Our exhibition at the European Parliament, “Factory Farming: Unveiling the Hidden Costs,” was co-organized with the European Environmental Bureau and ran from March 24th to 27th. We curated striking, unfiltered images that laid bare the cruelty, confinement, and suffering inflicted on billions of animals, while also revealing how factory farming devastates ecosystems, endangers public health, and fuels the climate crisis.

Award-winning photojournalist Jo-Anne McArthur, who has dedicated her career to documenting the suffering of animals worldwide through the We Animals project, was the special guest speaker at the launch event. Her frontline stories moved many to tears and deepened admiration for her bravery and that of her 12 dedicated photographer colleagues at We Animals. “What the images show

sharply contradicts what farming industries would have us believe: that the welfare of animals is just fine,” she told attendees in the Parliament.

Backing our urgent call for change, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) from across the political spectrum stood with us. Tilly Metz (Greens/EFA), Manuela Ripa (EPP), Krzysztof Śmiszek (S&D), Michal Wiezik (Renew), and Anja Hazekamp (GUE/NGL) co-hosted the event, while Marc Angel (S&D), Niels Fuglsang (S&D) and Sebastian Everding (GUE/NGL) joined and addressed the gathering. Together, they reinforced the need for the Commission to deliver a strategy that supports farmers in transitioning to a system that benefits them, the animals involved, neighboring communities, and nature.



Flagship Conference: “Animal Protection and EU Law: Recent Developments and Prospective Change”

Our flagship conference, “Animal Protection and EU Law: Recent Developments and Prospective Change,” co-organized with La Fondation Droit Animal, Éthique & Sciences (LFDA), took place on November 18th at the Residence Palace in Brussels. This high-level event convened representatives from the European Commission, Members of the European Parliament, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the Court of Justice of the EU, and NGOs including Compassion in World Farming France and Eurogroup for Animals.

The event sold out more than a week in advance

and brought together over 50 participants from more than 30 organizations. The conference offered an excellent opportunity to hear from expert speakers, reconnect with colleagues and friends, and explore possibilities for new collaborations. We received overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants, who praised both the quality of the discussions and the informative content of the presentations.

You’ll find a summary of the day’s presentations in the [news section](#) of our website.



Webinar: “The Protection of Cats and Dogs in EU Law: From Ownership to Responsibility”

On October 17th, we co-organized a webinar to launch the white paper, “The Protection of Cats and Dogs in EU Law: From Ownership to Responsibility,” published with Almo Nature/Fondazione Capellino and Deutscher Tierschutzbund. The event attracted more than 50 participants and was hosted by MEP Dario Nardella (S&D, Italy).

CALF Events

On March 20th, we co-hosted an event in Paris with the Jeremy Collier Foundation, “Bridging the Policy Gap – How French Agricultural Interests Influence the EU Agenda Setting.” The event gathered more than 50 participants in the EU and French animal and food law and policy space for an in-depth discussion on France’s role in shaping EU food and agricultural policies.

On October 30th, Alice Di Concetto co-moderated a webinar organized by CALF, “Climate Change and Factory Farming: The Role of Litigation-Based Strategies in Challenging the Status Quo Confirmation.” The webinar examined how litigation can best hold industrial animal agriculture – and governments – accountable for the major environmental harm it causes.



Our event in Paris with the Jeremy Collier Foundation, “Bridging the Policy Gap – How French Agricultural Interests Influence the EU Agenda Setting.”

Team Retreats

During 2025, as our organization expanded, we went on our inaugural retreats together. The first of these took place in Brussels over three days in May, and in addition to working sessions, we also learned about care for wild animals on a tour of Brussels' Centre de soin pour la faune sauvage (Wildlife Rescue Center).

Our second retreat took place in Barcelona in September, where we delved into the organization's

strategy for the coming years, visited the MÓN-La Bassa shelter for farm animals near Tarragona, and enjoyed a vegan tapas tour.

As most of our work is carried out remotely – with regular travel to Brussels typically done individually – these team retreats serve as an invaluable chance for us to meet in person, strategize at institutional and departmental levels, and make sure we are all on the right track.



External Events

Throughout 2025, our staff participated in many events, both to inform the animal advocacy and law communities of the evolving changes in EU animal law and policy, and to expand our network and strengthen our visibility as a knowledgeable and influential voice in the animal advocacy movement.

 <p>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</p> <p>February 19th – Rome, Italy Anatole Poinot</p> <p>“La place du bien-être animal au sein des indications géographiques : étude de cas des AOP porcines françaises, italiennes et espagnoles” (in French)</p> <p>Conference, “Worldwide Perspectives on Geographical Indications,” United Nations Food & Agricultural Organization</p>	 <p>March 5th – Edinburgh, Scotland Alice Di Concetto</p> <p>“The protection of fish in EU and UK law”</p> <p>The Fish Veterinary Society Annual Conference</p>	<p>March 21st – Milan, Italy Alice Di Concetto</p> <p>“Animals in EU law”</p> <p>Guest Lecture, Animal Law in Comparative and Global Perspective Course (Università Milano Bicocca)</p>
--	---	--

● February

● March

	 <p>March 15th – UNESCO, Paris, France Alice Di Concetto</p> <p>“L’Homme : un animal comme un autre ?” (in French)</p> <p>Conference, Université de la Terre</p>
 <p>February 21st – French Senate, Paris, France Alice Di Concetto</p> <p>“La place des associations et des lobbys dans le mouvement protecteur animalier” (in French)</p> <p>Conference, “L’article 515-14 du Code civil 2015-2025 dix ans après : bilan et perspectives”</p>	

March 25th – Online

Alice Di Concetto

“Bilan et perspectives des mesures relatives à la protection animale au niveau européen” (in French)

Guest Lecture, Diplôme Universitaire Ethique et condition animale : Devoirs des humains (ESAV and Université de Bretagne Occidentale)

June 20th – Paris, France

Alice Di Concetto, Anatole Poinso

“L’évaluation éthique des projets de recherche impliquant l’utilisation d’animaux : étude de droit comparé dans l’Union européenne” (in French)

Presentation, French National Advisory Council on the Ethics in Animal Experimentation (CNREEA)



Ethical Seafood Research

April 3rd – Online

Alice Di Concetto, Gabriela Kubíková

“The Treatment of Fishes during Slaughter in EU Law”

Webinar, “The Humane Slaughter of Aquatic Animals,” Ethical Seafood Research and the Global Research Network

June 23rd – Toulouse, France

Alice Di Concetto

“Le bien-être animal en droit de l’Union: Bilan et perspectives” (in French)

Conference, “La fabrique des normes relatives aux animaux” (Université Toulouse-Capitole)

● April

● May

● June

● July



Global Research Network Think Tank

March 31st – Online

Alice Di Concetto

“Theory, Wildlife, and the Law”

Authors’ roundtable, Journal of International Wildlife Law & Policy and the Global Research Network Think Tank on Animals and Biodiversity



July 1st – Hamburg, Germany

Alice Di Concetto

“Current Challenges to the Legal Representation of Animal Interests in Europe”

Conference, “Access to Justice for Animals in Europe: Towards an ‘Aarhus Convention’ for Animals?” (Access to Justice for Animals / Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law)



October 14th – European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium
Alice Di Concetto

“Legislative Solutions to End the Trade in Illegally-Sourced Wildlife”

Conference, “Stolen Wildlife: Closing the loopholes in the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations” (MEPs for Wildlife and other organizers)

August 6th – Oxford, UK
Alice Di Concetto

“Animal Captivity and the Law: Progress and Limitations”

Conference, 2025 Summer School of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics’ Summer School

October 2nd – Online
Alice Di Concetto

“Litigation-Based Strategies for Animals in the EU”

Webinar, “International Disputes in Animal Law” (Animal Legal Education Initiative, George Washington University Law School)

● August

● September

● October



September 11th – Online
Alice Di Concetto

“Behind the Green Mask: the Food Industry’s Marketing Tricks”

Discussion panel, 2025 European Vegan Summit

October 9th – Pau, France
Hugo Menotti

“Le législateur interne confronté au trafic d’animaux sauvages” (in French)

Conference, “Le trafic d’animaux sauvages” (Université de Pau et des pays de l’adour)

September 18th – Online
Alice Di Concetto

“Industrial Animal Agriculture in the EU”

Guest Lecture, Industrial Animal Agriculture course (Lewis & Clark Law School)

October 16th – Online
Hugo Menotti

“Developing Supportive Policies and Regulations to End Cetaceans Hunting in Europe”

Webinar, “Debunking Myths and Developing EU Policy Solutions to End the Faroese Dolphin Hunt” (Stop the Grind Coalition)

November 13th – Wageningen,
The Netherlands
Alice Di Concetto
“EU Farm Animal Law”
Guest Lecture, Food Law course
(Wageningen University)

November 4th – Online
Alice Di Concetto
“Farm Animals in
the EU”
Guest Lecture, Animals and
the Law course (Vermont
Law School)



Convegno internazionale - International Conference
ISTANZE DI SOGGETTIVITÀ
INSTANCES OF SUBJECTIVITY
FRA MONDO NATURALE E MONDO ARTIFICIALE
BETWEEN NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL WORLDS
Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna
Aula E Belmeloro Via Andreatta 4, Bologna
5 dicembre 2025
9.30 - 15.30

Saluti:
On. **Michela Vittoria Brambilla** Pres. Ingegr. Diritti Animali Tenda Ambiente
Dott. **Carla Rocchi** Presidente Ente Nazionale Protezione Animali ENPA
Prof. **Chiara Bologna** Vice Diritto Depart. Sc. Giuridiche - Univ. di Bologna
Prof. **Luisella Battaglia** Università di Genova - Comitato Nazionale Bioetica
Avv. **Paolo Rossi** Vice Presidente Nuova Ordine degli Avvocati di Bologna
Avv. **Gianluca Malvasi** Direttore Fondazione Fioresse Bolognaese

Relazione introduttiva e Coordinamento
Prof. Avv. **Margherita Pittalis** Università di Bologna

Interventi:
Avv. **Maria Silvia D'Alessandro** Resp. Uff. Leg. On. Brambilla e LEHDA
Prof. **Silvia Zallo** Università di Bologna
Avv. **Lola Garcia** Presidente Red de la Abogacía Animalista (España)
Prof. Avv. **Enrico Al Muroden** Università di Bologna
Prof. **Joshua Callery** University of North Florida (USA)
Avv. **Hugo Menotti** European Institute Animal Law & Policy (Francia)
Prof. **Annarita Ricci** Università di Chieti
Prof. **Selma Mahapatra** National Law University Odisha, Cutack (India)
Prof. **Felix Aiwanger** Max Planck Institute, Hamburg (Germania)
Prof. **Eva Berner-Kempfer** University of Antwerp (Belgio)
Prof. **Margot Michel** University of Zurich (Svizzera)

La partecipazione al convegno è gratuita. Il convegno si svolgerà in presenza.
ISCRIZIONE OBBLIGATORIA SOLO AVVOCATI mediante il sistema online sul sito www.fondazionefioresse.org
Ogni iscrizione necessita di una richiesta a ad stato.
L'iscrizione consiste - crediti professionali -
• per la sessione mattutina n. 4
• per la sessione pomeridiana n. 4
Partecipazione dei NON AVVOCATI: fino ad esaurimento dei posti disponibili.

Elenco scientifico e organizzativo:
Prof. Avv. **Margherita Pittalis**
Prof. **Annarita Ricci**
Prof. **Chiara Bologna**
Prof. Avv. **Alessandra Spangaro**
Avv. **Enrico Al Muroden**
Avv. **Vittorio D'Amico**

December 5th – Online
Hugo Menotti
“Lo statuto legale degli
animali in diritto
francese” (in Italian)
Conference “Istanze Di
Soggettività Fra Mondo Naturale
e Mondo Artificiale” (Università
di Bologna)

● November

● December

CALF | Coller Animal
Law Forum

October 30th – Online
Alice Di Concetto
Moderation, webinar,
“Climate Change and
Factory Farming: the Role
of Litigation-Based
Strategies in Challenging
the Status Quo”
Coller Animal Law Forum, CALF

7. Media Appearances

20 February, *POLITICO*,
Morning Agriculture & Food newsletter

VISION WITHOUT A CASH PURSE?

Quote (Olga Kikou)

20 February, *The Brussels Times*

EU VISION FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DOWNPLAYS ANIMAL WELFARE

Quote (Olga Kikou)

24 March, *ENDS Europe*

AGENDA: THE KEY GREEN EVENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR THIS WEEK

Mention of our forthcoming exhibition in the EP

25 March, *POLITICO*

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT FLINCHES AT FACTORY FARMING REALITY

Article about exhibition

25 March, *The Brussels Times*

EXHIBITION IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT UNVEILS THE HIDDEN COSTS OF FACTORY FARMING

Article about exhibition

26 March, *Agrocapital*

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE REALITY OF FACTORY FARMING

Article about exhibition (in Greek)

30 March, *Newpost*

POLITICO: HOW A PHOTO SHOWING PIGLET CASTRATION DISAPPEARED

Article about exhibition (in Greek)

19 June, *L'Agència Catalana de Notícies (ACN)*

L'EUROCAMBRA DEFENSA L'APLICACIÓ DE MICROXIPS A GOSSOS I GATS AMB EXCEPCIONS I LIMITAR EL NOMBRE DE CAMADES PER FEMELLA

Quote (Gabriela Kubíková) (in Catalan)



POLITICO
NEWS | AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

European Parliament flinches at factory farming reality

A piglet getting castrated didn't make the cut in a photo exhibition at the European Parliament.

SHARE



Piglet tails are often docked on factory farms to prevent cannibalism, which can lead to revenue loss. | *Theresa Lopez/AP/PA*, Getty Images

MARCH 25, 2025 7:18 PM CET
BY BARTOSZ SZCZEPANIK AND MAX GREGG

The European Union allows surgical castration of piglets without anesthesia. Just don't try showing a photo of it in the European Parliament.

Before a new exhibition on factory farming opened Tuesday, an image of a piglet mid-castration — screaming, restrained — was quietly removed. Polish rightwing MEP Kosma Złotowski, a senior official who approves internal events, flagged the photo as “exceptionally drastic.”

The procedure is legal, common, and carried out across EU farms — to prevent a smell in pork known as “boar taint,” and to curb pigs’ sexual and aggressive behavior. But it’s apparently not fit for Parliament walls.

10 July, Vox

WOULD THIS FOOD LABEL CHANGE HOW YOU EAT? SWITZERLAND'S NEW EXPERIMENT WILL TREAT MEAT-PACKAGING LIKE CIGARETTE WARNINGS

Quote (Alice Di Concetto)

5 August, Les Surligneurs

UN ZOO DANOIS NOURRIT-IL SES PRÉDATEURS AVEC DES ANIMAUX DOMESTIQUES ?

Quote (Alice Di Concetto) (in French)

15 August, Revolve

THE PICTURES THEY DON'T WANT YOU TO SEE

Article about exhibition

15 September, The Brussels Times

2025 STATE OF UNION SPEECH: WHAT WAS MISSING IN THE SPEECH?

Quote (Gabriela Kubíková)

15 September, The Animal Reader

FARMED ANIMALS IN EUROPE IGNORED IN STATE OF THE UNION SPEECH

Opinion (institute) and quotes (Gabriela Kubíková)

22 September, UIA International Association of Lawyers

FUR FARMING IN THE EU: THE BEGINNING OF THE END?

Article (Gabriela Kubíková)

13 October, Vegconomist

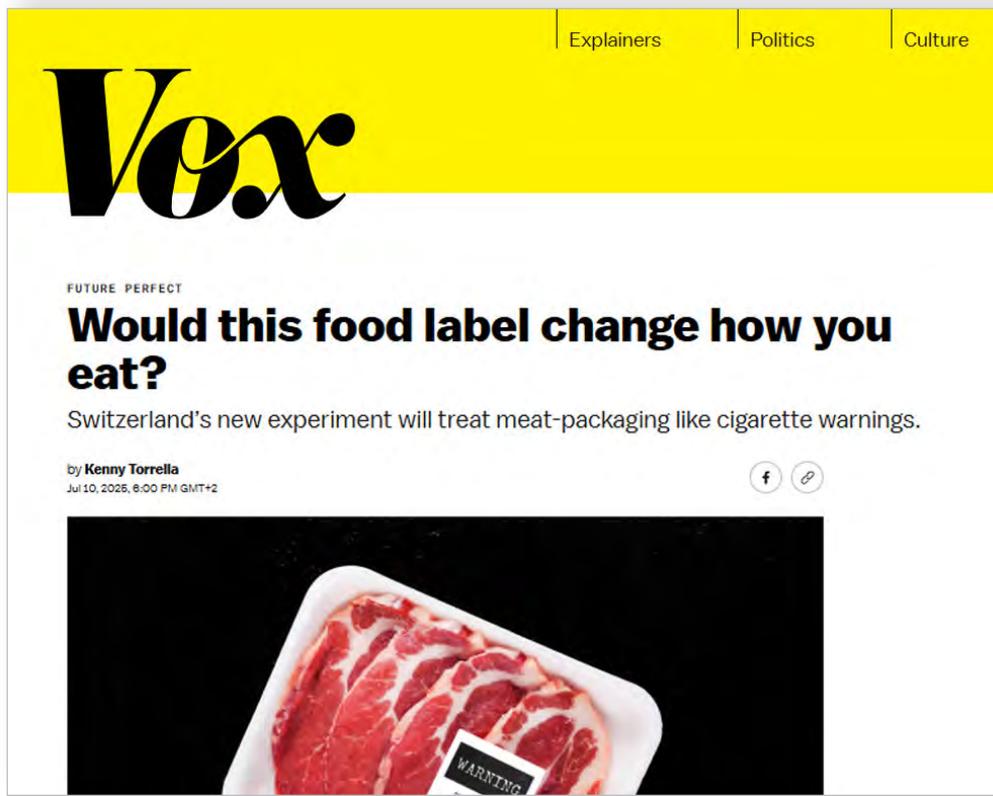
FRENCH MPS SUBMIT PROPOSAL CALLING FOR THE END OF CAGED FARMING FOR LAYING HENS IN THE EU

Quote (Gabriela Kubíková)

21 October, Euractiv

CRIMINALISE TRADE IN ILLEGALLY SOURCED WILDLIFE, WHILE BOOSTING TRACEABILITY

Quote (Alice Di Concetto)



22 October, *POLITICO*,
Morning Agriculture & Food newsletter

WHERE'S WELFARE?

Quote (*Gabriela Kubíková*)

22 October, *Contexte* newsletter

LE PROGRAMME DE TRAVAIL DÉFINITIF DE LA COMMISSION POUR 2026 N'INCLUT TOUJOURS PAS DE PROPOSITION CONCERNANT LE BIEN-ÊTRE ANIMAL

Quote (*institute*)

23 October, *The Brussels Times*

COMMISSION FAILS TO EXPLAIN LACK OF ANIMAL WELFARE PROPOSALS IN WORK PROGRAMME

Quote (*Gabriela Kubíková*)

26 October, *Usbek & Rica*

COMMENT LA VOIX DES ANIMAUX S'EST IMPOSÉE EN POLITIQUE

Quote (*Alice Di Concetto*)

7 November, *Solomon*

GREECE REJECTED THE EU'S SHEEPPOX VACCINE, OPTING FOR MASS SLAUGHTER. THE VIRUS IS SPREADING.

Quote (*institute*)

19 November, *POLITICO*, *Morning Agriculture & Food* newsletter

ALL STILL IN PLAY ON ANIMAL WELFARE RULES

Mention of our event with *LFDA*



8. Reflecting on 2025 and Looking Ahead to 2026



Alice Di Concetto, Executive Director and Chief Legal Advisor

"This year was challenging for the organization on many fronts. But we all rose from these challenges stronger than ever, individually and at an organizational level, and I have so many highlights to choose from. If I had to pick one, it would be our retreat in Spain, where I thoroughly enjoyed our time together as a team. One standout moment was the dinner we shared at a vegan tapas restaurant in the Ramblas. In that moment, I truly felt the strength of our small yet powerful team and reflected on how far we had all come – individually and together – to flourish and join forces. Next year, with Rayelle, I very much look forward to continuing to reinforce our organizational culture so that our colleagues can thrive while driving change for animals. I also look forward to continuing my research of litigation-based strategies, exploring how such strategies could potentially support our legislative efforts."



Rayelle Matthews, Director of Operations

"Joining the Institute this year has truly been a highlight. Creating and implementing key internal policies and processes, and seeing our culture and values take shape, has been especially meaningful, knowing it supports my colleagues in driving crucial progress for animals. In the new year, I'm looking forward to consolidating this work into a comprehensive employee guide that will strengthen and clarify how we collaborate."



Gabriela Kubíková, Legislative Advocacy Manager

"Although this year came with a tough political climate after the elections, a real highlight for me was seeing the European Commission kick off the long-overdue update of animal welfare laws and start looking seriously at a possible fur-farming ban. Going into 2026, I hope these steps will turn into ambitious proposals that finally lead to real, positive change for animals across the EU in the years ahead as well."



Ekaterina Solomina, Legislative Advocacy Manager

"My highlight this year was seeing the Institute gain wider recognition as a leading voice in our field, a milestone that reflects the dedication and quality of our work. Building on this foundation, I look forward to further extending the reach of our expertise in 2026, so that we can continue broadening the real, evidence-based improvements already being delivered for animals and strengthening the impact of our work even more."



Hugo Menotti, Legal Advocacy Manager

"I joined the Institute in the second half of 2025, but I can already say that I have found what I was looking for: a skilled and caring team, and an organization that combines research and public affairs in a rapidly developing field of law. I will always remember our visit to the MÓN-La Bassa shelter, which embodies our daily commitment to the development of animal law. For the coming year, I hope to strengthen the work of the legal and public affairs teams to help my colleagues have the greatest possible impact for animals."



Anatole Poinot, Lawyer

"My highlight of the year has been the strengthening of the Institute's team. The arrival of Gladys and Hugo in the law team has been a significant asset, allowing us to further develop our expertise and increase our work capacity. The essential skills that Rayelle and Vienna bring to the Institute are equally noteworthy, and the successful organisation of the November conference clearly reflects the collective strength of our enhanced team. For 2026, I hope to intensify my work on issues related to the consideration of animal welfare in animal health policies, a topic that is becoming increasingly important in the context of growing pressure from epizootic diseases."



Gladys Le Goff, Junior Researcher

"One of my biggest highlights of 2025 was joining the Institute and discovering an incredibly inspiring group of colleagues. Working within a team with such varied expertise has made it possible to dive into a wide range of issues and constantly re-examine our approach to them. Looking ahead to 2026, I truly hope we can keep building on this momentum and continue making a tangible difference for animals, especially by helping turn the European Commission's 2021 commitment to phase out cages across all farming sectors into a reality by 2027."



Vienna Leigh, Communications Specialist

"I can't believe how fast this year has flown by! Coming back to an organization that works for animals after a brief foray into environmentalism was like coming home. Not only do I feel I've really found my people, but I also feel that everything I do is in pursuit of a goal that I'm truly passionate about. It's hard to work with stories and pictures of animals suffering, but I'll do it until my dying day if it makes even the slightest bit of difference for those who unfortunately find themselves living alongside us in these hellishly anthropocentric times."



Reagan Sova, Editorial Consultant

"This year, I had the opportunity to provide editorial feedback and contribute to many meaningful documents and projects. Having been part of the Institute since its founding, it has been inspiring to see the organization grow, both in staff and in the range of its work for animals. One of my 2025 highlights was meeting my colleagues in Barcelona, where we all had the chance to brainstorm, connect, and spend an afternoon with rescued animals. It was also a pleasure to lead a workshop at the retreat, sharing some of the skills I have developed as a writer and editor, which was very rewarding."

Thank You

The Institute's achievements and measurable impact for animals are made possible by the incredible generosity of our donors and supporters. We also thank the organizations that partnered with us this year, many of whom have collaborated with the Institute since its inception. Your trust and commitment enables our work toward real, lasting change for animals.



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. Our 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 our 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, and so on.

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, we create 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. We also advise and assist other partner organizations with their EU legislative advocacy activities.
- **Research Services:** Our 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 our 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 effective 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

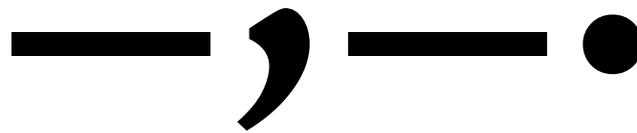
MISSION

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.

We firmly believe that knowledge is power, and so strive to empower different actors – nonprofits, public administrations, and academics – to improve conditions for animals through expertise and education.

VALUES

- **Animal Protection:** Our Institute assists on projects which carry the ultimate goal of improving the treatment of animals. We do 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 multilingualism:** The EU 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, we encourage our contacts to express themselves in their native language if they prefer, or by using additional languages besides English. To the best of our abilities, the European Institute for Animal Law & Policy offers services in Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese, as well as in 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 Institute further strives to make its 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. Our institute 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.



www.animallaweurope.org



[@AnimalLawEurope](https://twitter.com/AnimalLawEurope)



[Animal Law Europe](https://www.linkedin.com/company/AnimalLawEurope)



[@animallaweurope.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/animallaweurope.bsky.social)



[Subscribe to the newsletter](#)



The European Institute
for Animal Law & Policy

ACHIEVING BETTER TREATMENT FOR ANIMALS



The European Institute
for Animal Law & Policy

ACHIEVING BETTER TREATMENT FOR ANIMALS