

...Fur Farming Should Be Banned in the EU

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More than two-thirds of EU Member States have adopted a national ban

Fur farming is either **completely or partially banned** in the majority of the bloc. In 2025, the biggest fur producer in the EU, Poland, passed a legislative ban, with all remaining operations required to cease by the end of 2023. This leaves only a handful of countries still farming animals for fur.

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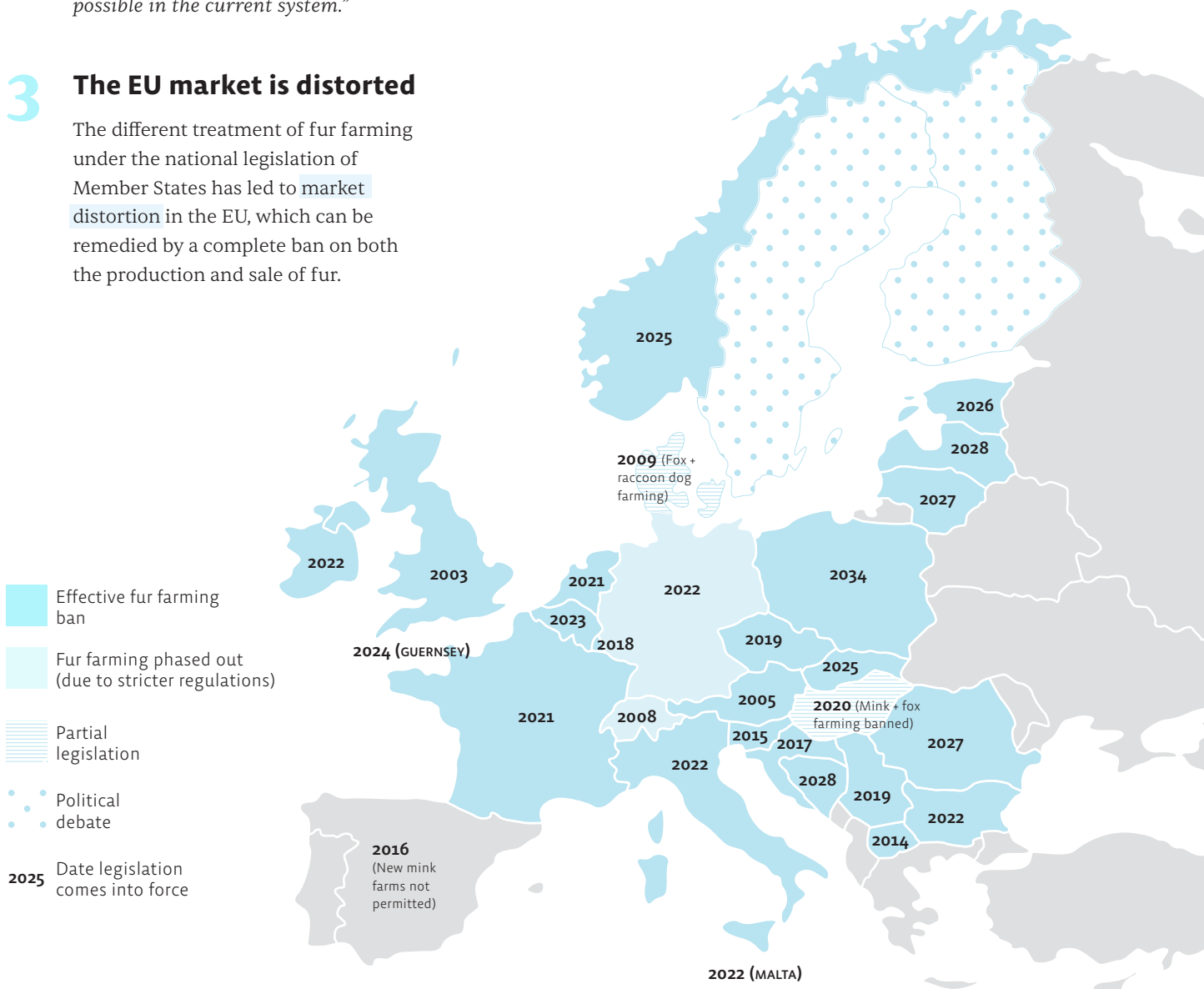
Scientific evidence clearly shows that fur farming compromises animal welfare

In 2025, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published a scientific opinion on the welfare of mink, foxes, raccoon dogs and chinchillas. The opinion found that fur farming is associated with a wide array of **negative animal welfare consequences**, ultimately concluding that in the majority of cases *“neither prevention of substantial mitigation of the identified [welfare consequences] is possible in the current system.”*

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The EU market is distorted

The different treatment of fur farming under the national legislation of Member States has led to **market distortion** in the EU, which can be remedied by a complete ban on both the production and sale of fur.



4 Fur farms poses a public health risk

The Covid-19 pandemic showed the vulnerability of the fur farming sector in face of a public health crisis. Outbreaks of SARS-CoV-2 on mink farms led to the culling of millions of animals, effectively ending mink production in Denmark at that time. As EFSA confirmed, the mink has the highest likelihood of becoming infected from humans and further transmitting the virus among all animals.

5 Fur farming poses a risk for the EU's biodiversity

Fur farming has contributed to the introduction of alien species that threaten native biodiversity in the EU. Two fur-farmed species are now listed as invasive alien species of Union concern under Regulation 1143/2014: the American mink (*Neogale vison*), applicable from 2027, and the raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*), applicable from 2019. The keeping, breeding, and farming of invasive alien species is generally prohibited, but exceptions are allowed through specific derogations.

6 Social acceptance of fur farming is at an all-time low

Fur and fur products are globally becoming less and less acceptable, mainly due to ethical reasons, with consumers turning to alternative materials. The 2023 Eurobarometer survey showed that nearly six out of ten Europeans want fur farming strictly banned.

7 1.5 million citizens asked the Commission to propose a ban

A European Citizens' Initiative "Fur Free Europe" asking the Commission to propose a legislative ban on both production and sale of fur and fur products gathered 1.5 million verified signatures from EU citizens in fewer than 12 months. It is the third most signed ECI in history and the most successful one related to animal protection.

8 Companies worldwide are going fur-free

All around the world, numerous brands have pledged to go fur-free, including major fashion houses such as Chanel, Prada, and Balenciaga. The Fur Free Retailer Program now includes more than 1,600 companies, clearly showing that fur is now a fashion relic that no longer enjoys large consumer demand.

9 Fur farming reduces the EU economy instead of contributing to it

A 2025 study by Griffin Carpenter found that EU fur farming generates -€9.2 million in gross value added (GVA), thereby reducing, rather than contributing to, the economy. This calculation does not even include animal welfare costs, which would drive the industry's contribution even lower.

10 Changing the housing system is only a short-term solution

As EFSA's scientific opinions have demonstrated, the housing systems currently used in fur farming are wholly inadequate. Substantial investments would be required to refurbish the farms, with uncertain and likely very limited positive impact on animal welfare. As demand for fur products continues to diminish, such investments are unlikely to be economically viable in an industry facing long-term structural decline.