

About Us

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The European Institute
for Animal Law & Policy

ACHIEVING BETTER TREATMENT FOR ANIMALS



Who Are We?

The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy is the first think-and-do-tank specializing in animal law and policy based in Brussels. We work to advance the protection of animals in Europe. Our vision is that of a world where animals are no longer exploited, but treated as living, sentient beings worthy of care and respect.



LAW

Our legal team provides stellar legal research and advice regarding EU animal welfare law for policy-makers and public interest organizations. The team is led by Alice Di Concetto — the founder of the Institute and also a Lecturer in animal law ethics at Sciences Po (College).

POLICY

Our policy team advocates for European Union regulatory reforms to improve the lives of animals and to promote plant-rich diets. The team has a track record of successful policy change, delivering tangible advances for the lives of animals in the EU.

EU Farm Animal Laws are Outdated

Animals are recognized as sentient beings in the EU treaties, yet any legal protection they receive is minimal and outdated. The general law for animal welfare dates back to 1998 and species-specific laws were last updated more than a decade ago. To align EU law with the latest science and citizens' expectations, the European Commission embarked on a revision of the animal welfare legislation in 2020. Four comprehensive proposals were due in 2023. Yet, lobbying pressure from vested interests and their political allies has derailed the process.



1998

General Farm
Animals Directive



1999

Laying Hens
Directive



2007

Broilers
Directive



2005

Transport
Regulation



2008

Pigs & Calves
Directives



2009

Slaughter
Regulation

Our EU Policy Recommendations

We advocate for an end to intensive animal farming in order to diminish the suffering of farmed animals, as well as to protect human and planetary health.

The scientific evidence is there. The European Food Safety Authority has confirmed that the EU animal welfare laws are not aligned with the latest scientific knowledge. Climate and public health scientists across the globe agree that the EU also needs to reduce its consumption of animal products.

Reforming the EU's outdated animal welfare laws and the Common Agricultural Policy needs to be accompanied by new measures to promote plant-rich diets in order to respond to consumer demands and the needs of the 21st century.



Europe Must Lead the Way

In order to be a true leader in animal welfare, the EU must complete the planned overhaul of its animal welfare legislation and foster sustainable food systems.

To achieve meaningful results, the EU needs to ensure that only products that are compliant with EU production standards are placed on the EU market. This will help respond to domestic consumer demand, and contribute to a spillover effect globally.

The whole world is watching. European citizens do not want any more empty promises. The continuous intensification of farming needs to end.

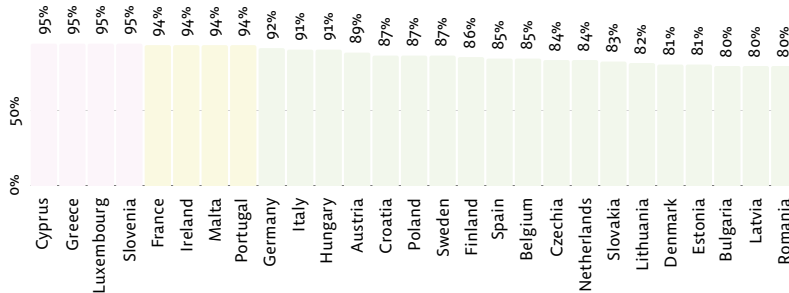
Now is the time to take action!



Europeans Demand Change

European citizens care deeply about animal welfare. Eight out of ten Europeans believe that the welfare of farmed animals should be better protected than it is now (84%), as evident from the latest EU public opinion poll on the issue (Eurobarometer 'Attitudes of Europeans towards animal welfare', 2023). The vast majority agree that animals should not be kept in individual cages (89%), see table below.

ANIMALS SHOULD NOT BE KEPT IN INDIVIDUAL CAGES



Nearly every respondent also confirmed that animals should have enough space to move around, lie down and stand up (94%), cutting off animal body parts like tails and beaks should be prohibited (89%), transport journeys should be limited (83%) and welfare in slaughterhouses should be improved (88%).

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