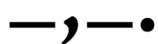


Recent Developments in EU Animal Law

2025 in Review

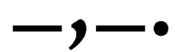


© Alvan Nee



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

1. About	5
2. Introduction.....	7
3. EU Law	8
3.1. New Legislation.....	9
3.1.1. Farmed Animals	9
3.1.2. Wild Animals	10
3.1.3. Companion Animals.....	11
3.1.4. Economic Law.....	11
3.1.5. Trade Agreements	11
3.1.6. Fundamental Rights.....	12
3.2. Caselaw	13
3.2.1. Farmed Animals	13
3.2.2. Wild Animals.....	13
3.2.3. Companion Animals.....	14
3.2.4. Fundamental Rights.....	15
4. National Law	16
4.1. Legislation	17
Austria	17
Belgium	17
Denmark	18
Finland.....	18
France	18
Greece	19
Hungary	20
Italy	20

Lithuania.....	20
Poland	21
Slovenia	21
Spain.....	22
4.2 Caselaw	23
Belgium	23
Bulgaria	24
Czechia	25
Denmark	25
France	26
Greece	28
Netherlands	28
Spain.....	29
Endnotes	30
Editors.....	36
Acknowledgements.....	36
Additional Resources.....	37

1. About

Scope

For the purposes of this document, animal law should be understood in the purely academic sense as a “field of study, scholarship, practice, and advocacy in which the nature (legal, social, or biological) of a nonhuman animal is an important factor.”¹ EU law should be understood broadly, encompassing both the legal framework established by EU institutions (the European Commission, the Council of the EU, and the European Parliament) and the national laws of the 27 EU Member States.

Furthermore, this document covers 2025, which corresponds to the first full year of the five-year term of the current European Commission, the executive branch of the EU responsible for drafting laws and enforcing them. The European Commission is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium and is presided over by a president elected by Members of Parliament every five years. The Commission president then typically selects 27 Commissioners, each of whom oversees a specific policy portfolio. The President of the European Commission from 2019 to 2024 was Ursula von der Leyen, who was re-elected in 2024 for another five-year mandate, which concludes in 2029.

Sources

This document draws from past editions of our newsletter, launched in 2021, as well as from our archives. The Institute’s newsletter is the first and only publication of its kind to offer high-quality insights into EU animal law and policy, with more than 1,000 subscribers, mainly academics, animal advocates, think tank researchers, policymakers, and students.

This document contains the most salient developments of the past few years in the “animal law news in the EU” section of the newsletter, which includes the most recent developments in EU and EU Member States’ law (new legislation and court rulings). Both the newsletter and this Five-Year Review document are the result of careful monitoring by animal law and policy specialists, who are diligent in cross-checking information with primary sources before compiling and summarizing information in a digestible way.

Terminology and Semantics

This document categorizes animals using human-based categories and commonly employed expressions, such as “farm animals,” “wild animals,” or “companion animals.” While the Institute ultimately advocates for the use of less anthropocentric terms, the editors have chosen to use them for the sake of clarity and concision, as existing legal frameworks currently operate with these terms and categories. Additionally, the term “fundamental rights” should be broadly understood to encompass both aspirational principles and procedural rights within the rule of law.

To improve readability, editors have also used “Commission” to refer to the “European Commission,” “Parliament” to refer to the European Parliament, “Council” to refer to the Council of the EU, and “the CJEU” or “the Court” to refer to the Court of Justice of the EU. Authors have also favored the use of generic terms such as “administration,” “legislature,” “rules,” “regulations,” and “preamble” rather than technical terms used in EU and national law, to ensure understanding for an international audience.

EU Law Basics

The EU Legislative Process

In EU law, the Parliament and the Council are considered to be the legislative branch of the EU ("co-legislators"), even though only the Commission is empowered to propose new laws (in the form of "regulations" or "directives"). Legislative proposals by the Commission are subsequently amended by the Parliament and the Council respectively, before final negotiations with all three institutions ("trilogues"). The Commission, which is the executive branch of the EU, is additionally empowered to adopt administrative acts (implementing and delegated acts).²

Legal Instruments

In EU law, "regulations" and "directives" are legislation and are the equivalent of "laws" in national legal systems. Implementing and delegated acts function as administrative regulations, comparable to "decrees," "executive orders," or "rules" in national legal systems. Regulations, directives, implementing acts, and delegated acts are all binding legal instruments that each of the 27 Member States and EU citizens must observe.

How to Use This Document

This document is divided into two main sections, each pertaining to EU Law (Section 1) and the national law of the 27 EU Member States (Section 2). Within these sections, entries are listed in chronological order. A color taxonomy divides sections based on the category of animals featured.

A caveat for readers: while the compilation of EU legislation and court rulings aims to be exhaustive, the section dedicated to national law only features what the authors have considered to be relevant developments from the past five years. Another important consideration is that not all jurisdictions make their case law available – this is true for most district court cases in France and Italy, which are not accessible to the public. Overall, this document, and the newsletter from which it originates, are works in progress as the Institute grows its presence in each EU Member State.

 Farmed Animals	 Animals Used for Scientific Purposes	 Companion Animals	 Food Transition
 Wild Animals	 Fur Animals	 Economic Law / Trade Agreements	 Fundamental Rights

2. Introduction

Overall, 2025 has been a difficult year for animals, with the notable exception of fur animals.

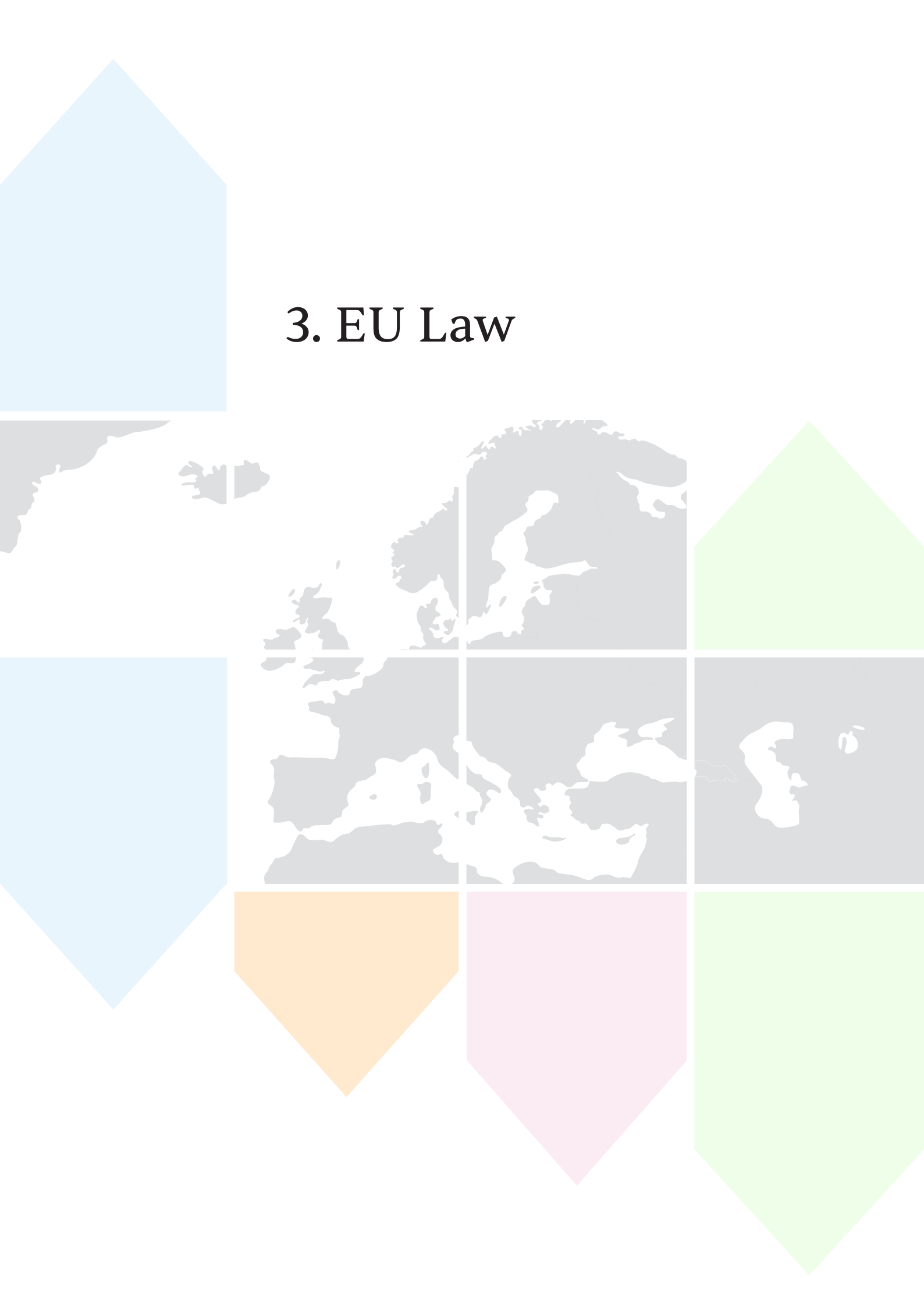
At EU level, positive developments include the listing of the American Mink (*Neogale vison*) as an invasive alien species,³ which will result in a ban on the keeping of mink beginning August 2027. However, one Member State, Denmark, has already announced its intent to apply for an exemption from this EU ban.⁴

Less positive for animals, 2025 also brought a weakening of wolf protection rules in the short term, following the downgrading by the Commission and the Member States of the wolf's protection status in international⁵ and EU law.⁶ The Commission further removed wild habitat protection rules in the Common Agricultural Policy Regulations, thereby ending the few wild animal requirements that existed in the rules regulating the distribution of farming subsidies.

Several salient key developments have emerged in the Member States. Firstly, efforts to ban fur farming at national level have continued and succeeded. In Bulgaria, the Supreme Court confirmed the legality of the national mink farming ban in a landmark ruling that upheld the 2022 regulation prohibiting the breeding and import of American mink.⁷ Poland, one of the top EU fur producers, succeeded on their third attempt to enact a law banning fur farming.⁸ The new Polish law prohibits the establishment of new fur farms with immediate effect and requires all existing facilities to close by the end of 2033. It introduces a compensation mechanism to support farmers transitioning out of the sector. Secondly, and less positive for animals, 2025 saw the rise of aggressive moves to restrict the uptake of animal-based alternatives, by restricting commercial speech by food manufacturers (France) and prohibiting cultivated products (Hungary).

Overall, this yearly review shows the need for continued advocacy and commitment in the legal sphere. Looking ahead, 2026 will likely see the adoption of the new EU regulation on the welfare of dogs and cats, published in 2023⁹ and finalized in 2025 following more than two years of political negotiations. This will be a welcome development considering the delays in the implementation of new national companion animal welfare laws (for instance, in France and Spain) and the shelving of proposals (in Portugal). There is also hope that 2026 will be the year the Commission publishes new legislative proposals on the welfare of farmed animals, which have been delayed since 2023.

3. EU Law



3.1. New Legislation

3.1.1. Farmed Animals

Insects

JANUARY

On January 20th, the Commission issued a marketing authorization for UV-treated mealworm powder as a novel food through Implementing Regulation 2025/89.¹⁰

Animal Health

APRIL

On April 10th, the Commission adopted Delegated Directive 2025/1223 amending Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications to update the minimum training requirements for veterinarians, including specific expertise in animal welfare.¹¹

Platform on Animal Welfare

JUNE

On June 5th, the Commission adopted Decision 2017/C 31/12 establishing the Commission Expert Group "Platform on Animal Welfare," limiting the number of observers to a maximum of 20 and extending the platform's mandate until June 30th, 2030 (instead of 2025, as initially planned).¹²

Fur Animals

JULY

On July 15th, the Commission adopted Regulation 2025/1377 restricting the feeding of bird carcasses to fur animals to limit the spread of avian influenza.¹³

Fur Animals

JULY

On July 17th, the Commission adopted Implementing Regulation 2025/1422, amending the EU's list of invasive alien species under Regulation 1143/2014 (Invasive Alien Species Regulation). This formally classifies the American mink (*Neogale vison*) as an invasive species. Once the updated list enters into effect on August 7th, 2027, the keeping, breeding, and farming of mink will be prohibited throughout the EU. However, some Member States, such as Denmark, will likely apply for an exemption for "reasons of compelling interest, including those of a social or economic nature."¹⁴

Meat Safety

JULY

On July 18th, the Commission adopted Implementing Regulation 2025/1447 reinforcing meat safety inspection rules in cases of human health, animal health, and animal welfare risks.¹⁵

Subsidies

JULY

On July 24th, the Commission adopted Implementing Regulation 2025/1485 on exceptional market measures for egg and poultry meat sectors in Poland. With this Regulation, the EU will co-finance 50% of market measures supporting the Polish egg and poultry meat market following the spread of avian influenza.¹⁶

3.1.2. Wild Animals

CITES

JANUARY

By way of Implementing Regulation 2025/6 adopted on January 6th, the Commission authorized the trade in several species of exotic wild animals, including certain species of chameleon from Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea, frogs from Madagascar, and lizards from Indonesia. This Regulation codifies the recommendations of the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).¹⁷

Nature Restoration

MAY

On May 19th, the Commission adopted Implementing Regulation 2025/912 establishing the format for national restoration plans. The Regulation aims to standardize the format of national restoration plans that the Member States must adopt and implement as part of the 2024 EU Nature Restoration Law.¹⁸

Wolves

JUNE

On June 17th, the EU adopted Directive 2025/1237 amending Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive) on the protection status of wolves.¹⁹ Entering into force on July 14th, the amendment effectively downgrades the conservation status of wolves under the Habitats Directive. However, national competent authorities remain obligated to demonstrate that killing authorizations do not affect the "good conservation status" of the species.²⁰

Aquatic Animals

JULY

On July 8th, through the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2025/1350, the Council amended Regulation 2025/202, which sets fishing quotas for the years 2025 and 2026. These provisions apply to EU waters and EU fishing vessels operating in certain areas outside the Union. The measure aims to adjust catch quotas based on updated scientific data on the state of fishery resources.²¹

Aquatic Animals

JULY

On July 28th, the Commission adopted Implementing Regulation 2025/1522 amending Regulation 1010/2009 on illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The new rules primarily aim to simplify administrative procedures for fishing operators.²²

3.1.3. Companion Animals

Brexit

JUNE

On June 13th, the Commission adopted [Implementing Regulation 2025/1165](#), which lays down specific rules for the application of Regulation 2023/1231 regarding the information to be included in the pet travel document ("passport") for certain companion animals entering Northern Ireland from other parts of the United Kingdom.²³

3.1.4. Economic Law

Due Diligence and Reporting Requirements

APRIL

On April 14th, the EU adopted [Directive 2025/794](#) amending Directives 2022/2464 and 2024/1760 as regards the dates from which Member States are to apply certain corporate sustainability reporting and due diligence requirements. This Directive delays the entry into force of the Directive 2022/2464 on Corporate Sustainability Reporting (CSRD) and Directive 2024/1760 on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence (CSDD). The CSRD expands the scope of EU extra-financial reporting rules to include animal protection among the issues that companies must report on; while the CSDD requires companies with over 1,000 employees and with yearly revenue above €450 million, to draft monitoring plans with the aim of identifying and preventing human rights and environmental risks in their respective production chains around the world.²⁴

3.1.5. Trade Agreements

Chile

JANUARY

On January 28th, the Commission increased tariff quotas by roughly 30% for beef (starting in 2025) and about 35% (starting in 2028) for poultry meat from Chile, by way of an [Implementing Regulation 2025/184](#) on the modification and management of certain tariff quotas. This Regulation implements the [Interim Agreement](#) on Trade between the EU and Chile.²⁵

Chile

FEBRUARY

The Interim Trade Agreement between the EU and Chile entered into force on February 1st. The agreement includes cooperation clauses on animal welfare.²⁶

3.1.6. Fundamental Rights

Access to Justice

MAY

On May 12th, the Commission adopted [Implementing Regulation 2025/905](#), amending Regulation 794/2004 to enhance public access to justice in matters concerning EU State aid. Under the new rules, nonprofit organizations are now entitled to request an internal review of administrative acts adopted under state aid procedures.²⁷



The classification in July of the American mink (*Neogale vison*) as an invasive species will prohibit the keeping, breeding, and farming of mink throughout the EU. © Waldsiedel

3.2. Caselaw

3.2.1. Farm Animals

Pigs

MARCH

In a ruling handed down on March 20th, the Court of Justice of the EU ruled that the Romanian administration was allowed to reduce the amount of agricultural subsidies granted to pork producers on account of calculation errors found by the European Court of Auditors.²⁸ These subsidies were granted under the Common Agricultural Policy's rural development fund to improve pig welfare, among other objectives.

3.2.2. Wild Animals

Marine Habitats

JUNE

In two rulings handed down on June 11th (T-781/22²⁹ and T-681/22³⁰), the CJEU confirmed the legality of Implementing Regulation 2022/1614 on existing deep-sea fishing areas and the establishment of a list of vulnerable marine ecosystems areas. The Court determined that the methods used to designate these areas and restrict fishing in them were proportionate in light of the goals established in the EU's environmental legislation. The Court therefore found that the Regulation did not infringe on the applicants' fundamental economic rights.

Wolves

JUNE

In ruling C-629/23 on June 12th, the CJEU clarified the conditions under which Member States may authorize the killing of wolves under the Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive). The Court determined that the conservation status of wolves may be considered "favorable," even though, at EU level, wolves remain classified as "vulnerable." However, the Court ruled that Member States must assess the conservation status of wolves in their natural range, not just at the local or national scale. Lastly, the Court provided that Member States were allowed to include economic, social, and cultural considerations when assessing the conservation status of wolves, but that Member States must still strictly comply with the standards listed in the Habitats Directive when granting hunting permits.³¹

Aquatic Animals

JUNE

In two rulings handed down on June 25th (T-577/22³² and T-648/22³³), the CJEU dismissed the action of ClientEarth, who challenged the Council of the EU's decision to refuse ClientEarth's request to review 2022 fish quotas. ClientEarth argued the 2022 fish quotas had undermined the sustainability objectives established in EU law, in addition to flouting the best available scientific advice.

Birds

JULY

In a ruling handed down on July 10th, the CJEU confirmed the legality of Implementing Decision 2022/484, which temporarily authorized the use of fallow land to increase agricultural production. The Court specifically ruled that these exemptions from the Common Agricultural Policy environmental rules were necessary and justified. This case was brought following a lawsuit by the Royal Belgian League for the Protection of Birds, challenging the Walloon Region.³⁴

Birds

AUGUST

In a ruling handed down on August 1st, the CJEU specified the scope on the protection afforded to birds under the Directive 2009/147/CE (Birds Directive). The Court specifically ruled that the cutting of trees during the bird breeding season may violate the prohibitions set out in Article 5 (protection of nests, eggs, and significant disturbances).³⁵

Bees

NOVEMBER

On November 19th, the CJEU annulled three decisions by the Commission, in which it refused to review the temporary extension of approval for the active substances boscalid, dimoxystrobin, and glyphosate. The Court found that the Commission had granted these extensions in a systematic way, whereas such extensions are exceptional measures that must be decided on a case-by-case basis and limited to the time strictly necessary to complete the renewal procedure. The actions were brought by the NGOs Pollinis, PAN Europe, and Aurelia Stiftung.³⁶

3.2.3. Companion Animals

Civil Damages

OCTOBER

In a ruling issued on October 16th, the CJEU addressed the compensation rules applicable for the loss of a dog who was transported in the cargo hold before a commercial flight. In this ruling, the Court sided with the defendant by ruling that, for the purpose of air carrier liability rules provided in the Montreal Convention, animals can be treated as baggage rather than passengers.³⁷

3.2.4. Fundamental Rights

Access to Documents

JANUARY

In a ruling handed down on January 16th, the CJEU reinforced the right of access to administrative documents and the principle of transparency in EU decision-making processes. Specifically, the nonprofit Polinis had requested that the Commission grant access to documents on the risk assessment of certain pesticides on wild and honey bees, a request the Commission denied. The CJEU sided with Polinis by ordering the Commission to disclose the requested documents.³⁸

Access to Justice

JULY

In a ruling handed down on July 23rd, the CJEU annulled the European Commission's decision rejecting a request from the ocean protection organization Bloom. Bloom sought an internal review of the Commission's objection to a resolution on the management of fish aggregating devices in the Indian Ocean. The Court specifically determined that the Commission's decision fell within environmental law and so was eligible for an internal review, as per the Aarhus Convention.³⁹

Public Consultation

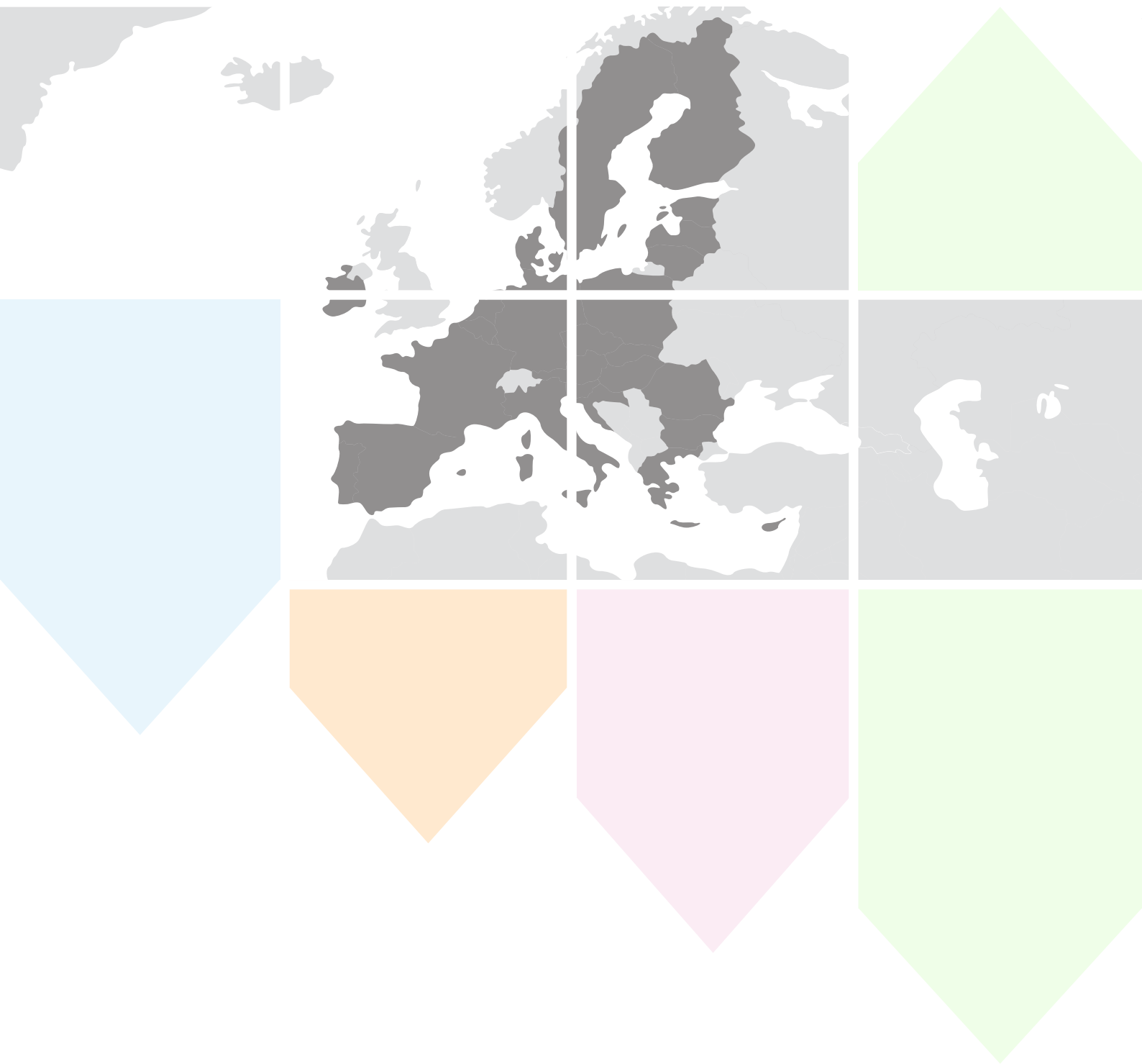
AUGUST

In a ruling handed down on August 1st, the CJEU held, in accordance with the environmental assessment procedures set out in Directive 2011/92/EU, that a Member State may consult the environmental authorities and the public simultaneously during an impact assessment, without being required to allow the public to comment on the opinions issued by those authorities.⁴⁰



The CJEU ruled that, for the purpose of air carrier liability rules provided in the Montreal Convention, animals can be treated as baggage rather than passengers. © Bence Balla-Schottner

4. National Law



4.1. Legislation

Austria



Farmed Animals

MAY

On May 9th, Austria's Parliament adopted an amendment to the Animal Welfare Act⁴¹ (*zum Tierschutz-Gesetz*) to slightly reduce slatted floors in pig production. The legislation provides a transition period lasting until June 1st, 2034 for existing facilities. Interim improvements, such as higher welfare standards, must begin by June 2029.

Belgium



All Animals

JANUARY

The new law on the protection of animals (Vlaamse Codex Dierenwelzijn⁴²), which was adopted in May 2024, entered into force on January 1st. This new law replaces the previous legislation, which was enacted back in 1986. New key measures include the recognition of animals as sentient beings, the adoption of a regulatory list of species of animals allowed to be kept as companion animals ("positive list"), rules restricting the selective breeding of companion animals, and the prohibition of animal sales on the streets and in fairs.

Denmark



Companion Animals

MAY

On May 26th, the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration adopted a regulation prohibiting the breeding of dogs with serious hereditary health issues, such as hip dysplasia, respiratory problems, spinal disorders, and heart defects. The decree will enter into force on July 1st, 2025.⁴³

Finland



All Animals

JUNE

On June 16th, Finland implemented new legislation⁴⁴ that allows employers to require employees to work during a strike if a work stoppage would pose an immediate and serious threat to animal welfare.

France



Wild Animals

FEBRUARY

On February 7th, the French Ministry of Agriculture issued a regulation relaxing the rules on the hunting of wolves.⁴⁵

Farmed Animals

FEBRUARY

On February 13th, the French administration adopted a regulation requiring producers to disclose the country of fattening and slaughter of fresh lamb, poultry, and pork served in collective catering and restaurants.⁴⁶

Circuses

APRIL

On April 30th, the French administration published a regulation on financial support for traveling circuses, implementing the 2021 animal welfare legislation. This text introduces five financial measures designed to support traveling circuses and specifies the eligibility conditions and the procedure to be followed to benefit from such support.⁴⁷

Farmed Animals

MAY

On May 2nd, the French government adopted a new regulation establishing a tax to be paid by retailers and wholesalers to help cover costs associated with in ovo sexing in the egg industry.⁴⁸

Companion Animals

JUNE

On June 19th, the French administration adopted new regulations amending existing rules on companion animal welfare. The updated regulations introduce new requirements for the fostering of cats and dogs for adoption and include a prohibition on inbreeding practices.⁴⁹

Farmed Animals

JULY

On July 8th, France's Parliament passed a new law, easing certain environmental rules for industrial farm animal production.⁵⁰ The law raises thresholds for mandatory environmental assessments, from 40,000 to 85,000 chickens, and from 2,000 to 3,000 pigs, facilitating the expansion of large-scale infrastructures. These changes, set to take effect in late 2026, align with Directive 2010/75/EU on Industrial Emissions (IED).

Wild Animals

SEPTEMBER

On September 2nd, the French Minister for the Environment published a decree⁵¹ authorizing the use of nets to hunt skylark birds.

Greece**Criminal Law**

MARCH

On March 21st, the Ministry of Justice tightened firearms legislation, banning gun permits for individuals prosecuted or convicted of animal cruelty.⁵²

Hungary



Food Transition

NOVEMBER

On November 18th, the Hungarian Parliament voted to ban the production and sale of cultivated meat, citing potential risks to health, the environment, and rural traditions.⁵³

Italy



Companion Animals

MAY

On May 29th, the Italian Senate adopted a law strengthening legal protections for animals. The new law amends both the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, classifying animals as victims in their own right and increasing penalties for offenses such as abandonment, cruelty, organized animal fights, and abuse on farmed and wild animals.⁵⁴

Lithuania



Wild Animals

SEPTEMBER

On September 4th, the Lithuanian Ministry of Environment published a regulation allowing hunters to manage wild fauna on military training grounds, provided these areas were used for hunting before becoming military zones.⁵⁵

Poland



Food Transition

NOVEMBER

On November 18th, the Polish Ministry of Health published a regulation requiring all schools, preschools, and educational care facilities to provide at least one fully plant-based lunch per week, made from legumes, as of September 1st, 2026.⁵⁶

Fur Animals

DECEMBER

On December 2nd, 2025, Poland enacted a landmark law banning fur farming.⁵⁷ The legislation prohibits the establishment of new fur farms with immediate effect and requires all existing facilities to close by December 31st, 2033. The law introduces a compensation mechanism to support farmers transitioning out of the sector.

Slovenia



Farmed Animals

AUGUST

On August 1st, Slovenia passed a law banning cage farming for hens, with a full phase-out by the end of 2028. The new legislation also bans piglet castration without analgesia, establishes state-funded horse sanctuaries, and makes the microchipping of cats mandatory.⁵⁸

Spain



Farmed Animals

MARCH

On March 8th, the Spanish government adopted a regulation specifying environmental standards for pig farms, including requirements for light, noise, and air quality that operators must comply with.⁵⁹

Food Transition

APRIL

On April 15th, the Spanish executive authorities adopted a royal decree requiring more fruits and vegetables to be served in school cafeterias.⁶⁰

Farmed Animals (and others)

MAY

On May 29th, the Spanish administration adopted a regulation defining the composition and functioning of the National Animal Protection Council and the Scientific Committee for the Protection and Rights of Animals.⁶¹ Both entities were created by the 2023 animal protection legislation (*Ley 7/2023 de protección de los derechos y el bienestar de los animales*) to provide expertise and advise the government on animal welfare issues.

4.2. Caselaw

Belgium



Farmed Animals

JANUARY

In a ruling handed down on January 22nd, the highest administrative court in Belgium (*Conseil d'État*) struck down animal welfare rules on turkeys. The Flemish administration had adopted these rules in December 2023 to provide maximum stocking densities, specifications on enrichment materials, and the method by which turkeys may be physically picked up.⁶²

Fundamental Rights

FEBRUARY

On February 17th, the Brussels district court ruled that the Belgian meat federation (FEBEV) had committed wrongful and abusive litigation against two animal protection organizations, Tierschutzbund Zürich (TSB) and Animal Welfare Foundation (AWF). FEBEV's lawsuit attempted to incriminate TSB and AWF for publishing videos revealing severe animal welfare violations in slaughterhouses.⁶³

Wild Animals

APRIL

On April 28th, the Flemish government was condemned by the Brussels district court for its failure to protect the wild hamster, a species strictly protected under the European Union's Habitats Directive since 1994. This ruling follows a legal action initiated in August 2023 by nonprofit groups Bird Protection Flanders and Dryade. The government is now ordered to take urgent (non-binding) measures to restore the wild hamster to a favorable conservation status.⁶⁴

Wild Animals

MAY

On May 12th, Belgium's highest administrative court (*Conseil d'État*) ordered the Walloon Region to compensate the bird protection organization LRBPO for moral damages, as a result of illegally allowing the hunting of grey partridge and green-winged teal.⁶⁵

Wild Animals

JULY

In July 2025, Belgium's highest administrative court (*Conseil d'État*) ruled that the Walloon Region's grey partridge management plan was illegal, on the grounds that the conservation measures in the plan lacked ambition and that the plan posed disproportionate conservation risks.⁶⁶

Farmed Animals

SEPTEMBER

The Flemish Ministry of Animal Welfare suspended the license of a livestock transport company in Houthulst, West Flanders, for repeated animal welfare violations, including overcrowding and transporting injured pigs.⁶⁷ This marks the first time a transporter's license has been revoked in Flanders, signaling that all links in the supply chain are accountable for animal welfare.

Access to Justice

SEPTEMBER

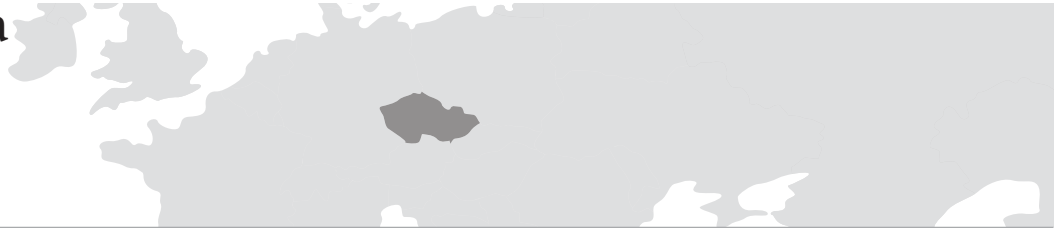
In two rulings issued on September 16th (P.25.0316.N⁶⁸ and P.25.0400.N⁶⁹), Belgium's highest civil court (*Cour de cassation*) held that the civil actions brought by animal protection organizations were inadmissible. The Court found that such organizations do not have a sufficient personal legal interest to bring proceedings, as animal welfare is not considered an environmental matter under the Aarhus Convention, nor a fundamental right granting autonomous standing to act before the courts.

Bulgaria**Fur Animals**

AUGUST

In a ruling handed down on August 11th, the Bulgarian Supreme Court confirmed the legality of the national mink farming ban, upholding the 2022 regulation prohibiting breeding and import of American mink. The 2022 regulation listed American mink on the national invasive species list, thereby banning the breeding and import of American mink in Bulgaria. A mink farmer challenged the executive order as disproportionate. The Court, however, ruled in favor of the Bulgarian government, stating that the ban was proportional in light of environmental protection objectives pursued by national invasive species legislation.⁷⁰

Czechia



Farmed Animals

APRIL

In a ruling handed down on April 7th, the Supreme Administrative Court (*Nejvyšší správní soud*) rejected the legal action by the environmental protection organization Dobře zapsaný spolek, wherein the group claimed that the use of inhumane mass killing methods of laying hens using CO₂ asphyxiation following an outbreak of avian flu violated their constitutional right to a favorable environment. The Court rejected the complaint on the grounds that animal welfare legislation does not primarily pursue environmental protection goals, and as a result, slaughter method rules cannot interfere with the constitutional right to a favorable environment.⁷¹

Denmark



Farmed Animals

APRIL

On April 7th, the district court of Randers ordered the Danish Nature Agency to pay a fine of 800,000 Danish crowns (about €107,000) for the cruel neglect of cows, who were left to starve on lands placed under the agency's authority in 2021.⁷²

France



Food Transition

JANUARY

On January 29th, the French highest administrative court (*Conseil d'État*) handed down two rulings (Décision n° 465835⁷³ and Décision n° 492839⁷⁴) striking down two regulations (Décret n° 2022-947 du 29 juin 2022 and Décret n° 2024-144 du 26 février 2024) that banned the use of traditional meat names for plant-based products. In doing so, the French court followed the ruling of the Court of Justice of the EU in October 2024, which had found the two regulations unlawful in light of EU law.

Wild Animals

FEBRUARY

In a decision handed down on February 10th, the French highest administrative court (*Conseil d'État*) rejected the hunting federations' challenge to the legality of a 2023 regulation outlining requirements for hunting species considered as pests. The hunting federations specifically challenged the exclusion of certain bird species (Eurasian magpie, beech marten, and pine marten) from the list, and they challenged the prohibition against the den hunting of foxes in specific areas.⁷⁵

Wild Animals

FEBRUARY

In a ruling handed down on February 14th, the constitutional court (*Conseil constitutionnel*) upheld the constitutionality of the 2021 animal welfare law that prohibits the use of wild animals in traveling circuses beginning in 2028, and allows the use of wild animals in non-traveling circuses. This judicial review was requested by the animal protection organization One Voice.⁷⁶

Food Transition

FEBRUARY

On February 27th, the Paris Economic Activities Court (*Tribunal des activités économiques*) ordered a producer of plant-based meat substitutes (Beyond Meat) to stop using several meat-related elements in its communication and marketing, which were deemed misleading to consumers.⁷⁷

Wild Animals

MARCH

In a decision issued on March 5th, the constitutional court (*Conseil constitutionnel*) confirmed the legality of a regulation allowing a derogation from measures protecting species and natural habitats for "imperative reason of overriding public interest."⁷⁸

Wild Animals

APRIL

In a decision issued on April 18th, the highest administrative court (*Conseil d'État*) partially annulled a 2024 rule that limited the authority of local administrative authorities to allow defensive shooting of wolves.⁷⁹

Wild Animals

JUNE

In a decision issued on June 16th, the highest administrative court (*Conseil d'État*) restricted wild boar hunting by annulling a provision in a 2023 regulation that allowed hunters to use agricultural machinery to trap wild boars. This decision follows legal action brought by the wild animal protection organization ASPAS.⁸⁰

Animals Used for Scientific Purposes

JUNE

On June 16th, France's highest administrative court (*Conseil d'État*) ruled that inspection reports produced by national authorities responsible for enforcing animal welfare legislation in laboratories are administrative documents and, as such, must be disclosed upon request. However, the court also held that identifying information contained in these reports must be redacted to protect the physical integrity of researchers. This decision follows a legal action brought by Observatoire de l'expérimentation animale (OXA).⁸¹

Animals Used for Scientific Purposes

JUNE

In a series of 18 rulings handed down on June 26th, the Paris administrative court found that the French administration had not properly followed the rules laid out in Directive 2010/63, when empowering 18 ethics committees responsible for evaluating and approving procedures involving the use of animals for scientific purposes.⁸² While the Court acknowledged procedural shortcomings in the committees' designation, it also ruled that the committees' decisions were not, in themselves, unlawful. As a result, the court did not invalidate their past decisions authorizing the use of animals for experimentation purposes. This ruling was handed down as the result of a lawsuit filed by the animal protection organization Transcience.

Wild Animals

SEPTEMBER

In a ruling handed down on September 24th, the French highest administrative court (*Conseil d'État*) suspended the rule permitting the hunting of Eurasian skylarks with nets. The Court found that the measure was likely incompatible with Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive), given the species' low conservation status.⁸³

Wild Animals

OCTOBER

In a ruling handed down on October 2nd, the French highest administrative court (*Conseil d'État*) dismissed the case brought by two animal protection organizations (One Voice and LPO) seeking to suspend the ministerial order of 27 August 2025 authorizing the hunting of several bird species in poor conservation status (common quail, wigeon, pintail, shoveler, pochard, tufted duck, garganey, teal, and redwing). The Court found that the condition of urgency was not met and that the scientific evidence did not justify an immediate suspension.⁸⁴

Greece



Companion Animals

AUGUST

On August 28th, Greece's highest administrative court upheld the legality of administrative fines of €30,000 per animal and per incident for acts of animal cruelty. The Court ruled that the fines did not violate the principle of proportionality, even if the defendant had already received a criminal sentence.⁸⁵

Netherlands



Farmed Animals

FEBRUARY

On February 19th, the Dutch highest administrative court ruled that the competent Dutch administration on animal welfare (*Nederlandse Voedsel- en Warenautoriteit*) had the authority to authorize hatcheries to provide food and water to newborn chickens for up to 42 hours after hatching. This ruling was handed down as the result of a lawsuit filed by Wakker Dier in 2013.⁸⁶

Wild Animals

JULY

In a ruling handed down on July 31st, the Hague district court ordered the Dutch administration to designate protection areas (Natura 2000 sites) for wolves. This ruling was the result of a lawsuit brought by the environmental organization Stichting De Faunabescherming.⁸⁷

Farmed Animals

AUGUST

In a ruling handed down on August 28th, the Dutch administrative court ruled that Dutch regulations had no legal basis in national or EU law to require the mandatory stunning of catfish before slaughter. This case arose from an enforcement action by Wakker Dier.⁸⁸

Wild Animals

OCTOBER

On October 15th, a Dutch district court ruled that allowing house cats to roam outdoors does not necessarily violate the prohibition on deliberately killing or capturing wild birds provided for in the EU's Birds Directive.⁸⁹

Spain**Fundamental Rights**

JULY

In a ruling handed down on July 11th, the High Court of Galicia determined that Spanish national and regional authorities had violated residents' human rights to live in a healthy environment protected under Spanish constitutional law, EU law, and the European Convention on Human Rights, by failing to manage record levels of pollution originating from hundreds of pig and poultry farms in the A Limia region.⁹⁰



The French Conseil d'État suspended the rule permitting the hunting of Eurasian skylarks (*Alauda arvensis*) with nets. © Neil Smith

Endnotes

1. About

- 1 Pamela D. Frasch, *The Definition of Animal Law*, Global Journal of Animal Law (2019). Frasch proposes a more updated definition of animal law as the “field of study, scholarship, practice, and advocacy in which serving the best interests of nonhuman animals through the legal system is the primary goal” – a definition we adopt at the Institute in our daily work, beyond the purpose of this document.
- 2 For more on the EU legislative process, see Collier Animal Law Forum, *Advocating for Animals: A Guide to Legislative Advocacy*, available online: https://animallaweurope.org/wp-content/uploads/EIALP-CALF-AdvocatingforAnimals_AGuidetoLegislativeAdvocacy.pdf

2. Introduction

- 3 Commission Implementing Regulation 2025/1422 Amending Implementing Regulation 2016/1141 to Update the List of Invasive Alien Species of Union Concern, 2025 O.J. (L 1422) 4. Also see “EU Law” section *infra*.
- 4 Mink kommer på EU's liste over invasive arter, Styrelsen For Grøn Arealomlægning Og Vandmiljø, (June 20th, 2025), <https://sgavmst.dk/nyheder/2025/juni/mink-kommer-paa-eu-s-invasivliste> (Nov. 13, 2025).
- 5 Council of Europe's Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, 1979, E.T.S. 104, as amended by Amendment of 2025 (Canis lupus moved from Appendix II to Appendix III), in force since July 03, 2025.
- 6 Directive 2025/1237 of 17 June 2025 amending Directive 92/43/EEC as regards the protection status of the wolf (*Canis lupus*), OJ L, 2025/1237, 24.6.2025.
- 7 Върховен административен съд на Република България — Шесто отделение, Решение № 8418 от 11 август 2025 г., по адм. дело № 9959/2024 г., ECLI: BG:VAS:2025:8418 — Фармпро ООД против Министерство на околната среда и водите.
- 8 Ustawa z dnia 7 listopada 2025 r. o zmianie ustawy o ochronie zwierząt.
- 9 Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Welfare of Dogs and Cats and Their Traceability, COM/2023/769 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52023PC0769>.

3. EU Law

3.1. New Legislation

3.1.1 Farmed Animals

- 10 Commission Implementing Regulation 2025/89 of 20 January 2025 authorising the placing on the market of UV-treated powder of whole *Tenebrio molitor* larvae (yellow mealworm) as a novel food and amending Implementing Regulation 2017/2470, OJ L 89, 21.1.2025, p. 1-7.
- 11 Commission Delegated Directive 2025/1223 of 10 April 2025 amending Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the minimum training requirements for the profession of veterinary surgeon, OJ L 1223, 20.6.2025, p. 1-6.
- 12 Commission Decision of 24 January 2017 establishing the Commission Expert Group 'Platform on Animal Welfare' (C 31/2017), OJ C 31, 31.1.2017, p. 1-17.
- 13 Commission Regulation 2025/1377 of 15 July 2025 amending and correcting Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 as regards certain requirements for the placing on the market and imports of animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption, OJ L 1377, 16.7.2025, p. 1-17.

- 14 Commission Implementing Regulation 2025/1422 of 17 July 2025 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1141 to update the list of invasive alien species of Union concern, OJ L 1422, 18.7.2025, p. 1-4.
- 15 Commission Implementing Regulation 2025/1447 of 18 July 2025 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/627 laying down uniform practical arrangements for the performance of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council, OJ L 1447, 21.7.2025, p. 1-7.
- 16 Commission Implementing Regulation 2025/1485 of 24 July 2025 on exceptional market measures for the eggs and poultry-meat sectors in Poland, OJ L 1485, 25.7.2025, p. 1-9.

3.1.2 Wild Animals

- 17 Commission Implementing Regulation 2025/6 of 6 January 2025 prohibiting the introduction into the Union of specimens of certain species of wild fauna and flora in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97, OJ L 6, 7.1.2025, p. 1-13.
- 18 Commission Implementing Regulation 2025/912 of 19 May 2025 laying down rules for the application of Regulation 2024/1991 as regards a uniform format for the national restoration plan, OJ L 912, 20.5.2025, p. 1-46.
- 19 Directive 2025/1237 of 17 June 2025 amending Directive 92/43/EEC as regards the protection status of the wolf (*Canis lupus*), OJ L, 2025/1237, 24.6.2025.
- 20 For more information, see our analysis: <https://animallaweurope.substack.com/p/may-2025-newsletter-the-eus-dangerous>
- 21 Council Regulation 2025/1350 of 8 July 2025 amending Regulation (EU) 2025/202 fixing for 2025 and 2026 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, OJ L 1350, 10.7.2025, p. 1-11.
- 22 Commission Implementing Regulation 2025/1522 of 28 July 2025 amending Regulation (EC) No 1010/2009 laying down rules for imports and exports of certain goods, OJ L 1522, 29.7.2025, p. 1-18.

3.1.3 Companion Animals

- 23 Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/1165 of 13 June 2025 laying down specific rules for the application of Regulation 2023/1231 regarding the information to be included in the pet travel document and declaration for non-commercial movements of certain pet animals entering into Northern Ireland from other parts of the United Kingdom, OJ L 1165, 16.6.2025, p. 1-3.

3.1.4 Economic Law

- 24 Directive 2025/794 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 April 2025 amending Directives (EU) 2022/2464 and (EU) 2024/1760 as regards the dates from which Member States are to apply certain corporate sustainability reporting and due diligence requirements, OJ L 794, 16.4.2025, p. 1-4.

3.1.5 Trade Agreements

- 25 Commission Implementing Regulation 2025/184 of 28 January 2025 amending Implementing Regulations (EU) 2020/761 and (EU) 2020/1988 regarding the creation, modification and management of certain tariff quotas following the Interim Agreement on Trade between the European Union and the Republic of Chile, OJ L 184, 29.1.2025, p. 1-16.
- 26 Interim Agreement on trade between the European Union and the Republic of Chile (ST/11668/2023), OJ L 2953, 20 Dec. 2024, p. 1-942.

3.1.6 Fundamental Rights

- 27 Commission Implementing Regulation 2025/905 of 12 May 2025 amending Regulation (EC) No 794/2004 as regards an internal review mechanism, OJ L 905, 13.6.2025, p. 1-520.

3.2. Caselaw

3.2.1. Farmed Animals

- 28 Judgment of the Court (Sixth Chamber) of 20 March 2025 — Case C-116/24, Porcellino Grasso SRL v Ministerul Agriculturii și Dezvoltării Rurale, et al., OJ C 2634, 19.5.2025, p. 1.

3.2.2. Wild Animals

- 29 Judgment of the General Court of 11 June 2025 (General Court – Fifth Chamber), Case T-781/22, Madre Querida and Others v Commission, OJ C 4150, 4 Aug. 2025, p. 1.
- 30 Judgment of the General Court of 11 June 2025, Spain v Commission (Case T-681/22), OJ C 4041, 28.7.2025, p. 1.
- 31 Judgment of the Court (Fifth Chamber) of 12 June 2025, Case C-629/23, Eesti Suurkiskjad v Comisión, OJ C 4125, 4.8.2025, p. 1-2.
- 32 Judgment of the General Court of 25 June 2025, Case T-577/22, ClientEarth v European Council, OJ C 4283, 11.8.2025, p.1.
- 33 Judgment of the General Court of 25 June 2025, Case T-648/22, ClientEarth v Council, OJ C 4284, 11.8.2025, p. 1.
- 34 Court of Justice of the European Union (Fifth Chamber), Judgment of 10 July 2025, Case C-287/24, Ligue royale belge pour la protection des oiseaux ASBL v Région wallonne, OJ C 4726, 8 Sep. 2025, p. 1.
- 35 Judgment of the Court (Fifth Chamber) of 1 August 2025, Case C-784/23, OÜ Voore Mets, AS Lemeks Põlva v Keskkonnaamet, OJ C, C/2025/5180, 6.10.2025.
- 36 Judgment of the General Court (Fourth Chamber) of 19 November 2025, Case T-94/23, Pollinis France v European Commission, OJ C 179, 22.5.2023, pp. 55-57; Judgment of the General Court (Fourth Chamber) of 19 November 2025, Pesticide Action Network Europe (PAN Europe) v European Commission, ECLI:EU:T:2025:1034; Judgment of the General Court (Fourth Chamber) of 19 November 2025, Case T-565/23, Aurelia Stiftung v Commission, OJ C, C/2023/988, 27.11.2023.

3.2.3. Companion Animals

- 37 Judgment of the Court (Seventh Chamber) of 16 October 2025, Case C-218/24, Felicísima v Iberia Líneas Aéreas de España SA Operadora Unipersonal and IATA España SLU, ECLI:EU:C:2025:794.

3.2.4. Fundamental Rights

- 38 Court of Justice of the European Union (Fifth Chamber), Judgment of 16 January 2025, Case C-726/22 P, European Commission v Pollinis France, OJ C 4041, 6.4.2025, p. 1.
- 39 Judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union, Case C-422/23, Bloom v. Commission OJ C 4759, 11.8.2025, p. 1.
- 40 Judgment of the Court (Tenth Chamber), Judgement of 1 August 2025, Case C-461/24, Asociación Petón do Lobo v Dirección Xeral de Planificación Enerxética Recursos Naturais, OJ C, C/2024/5609, 30.9.2024.

4. National Law

4.1. Legislation

Austria

- 41 More information available online: <https://www.parlament.gv.at/aktuelles/news/in-einfacher-sprache/Gesundheitsausschuss-Novelle-zum-Tierschutz-Gesetz/>

Belgium

- 42 Vlaamse Codex Dierenwelzijn van 17 mei 2024, Decreet over het dierenwelzijn, Belgisch Staatsblad, 17 mei 2024, <https://navigatormis.vito.be/detail?wold=92513&woLang=nl&woVersion=2025-01-01>

Denmark

- 43 BEK nr. 607 af 26/05/2025 Ministeriet for Fødevarer, Landbrug og Fiskeri, Bekendtgørelse om dyrevelfærdsmæssige mindstekrav til hold af hunde.

Finland

- 44 Laki työriitojen sovittelusta ja eräiden työtaistelutoimenpiteiden edellytyksistä annetun lain muuttamisesta (307/2025). Annettu Helsingissä 13 päivänä kesäkuuta 2025. Julkaistu Suomen säädöskokoelmassa 16 päivänä kesäkuuta 2025.

France

- 45 Arrêté du 7 février 2025 modifiant l'arrêté du 21 février 2024 fixant les conditions et limites dans lesquelles des dérogations aux interdictions de destruction peuvent être accordées par les préfets concernant le loup (*Canis lupus*) ; JORF n° 0033 du 8 février 2025, texte n° 13.
- 46 Décret n° 2025-141 du 13 février 2025 modifiant le décret n° 2002-1465 du 17 décembre 2002 relatif à l'étiquetage des viandes bovines dans les établissements de restauration, JORF n° 0041 du 18 février 2025.
- 47 Décret n° 2025-396 du 30 avril 2025 relatif à l'accompagnement financier des établissements itinérants de présentation au public d'animaux d'espèces non domestiques, JORF n° 0103 du 2 mai 2025.
- 48 Arrêté du 2 mai 2025 portant extension de l'accord interprofessionnel conclu le 28 février 2025 dans le cadre du Comité national pour la promotion de l'œuf (CNPO) portant création d'une cotisation visant à soutenir la mise en place d'alternatives à l'élimination des poussins mâles, JORF n° 0107 du 7 mai 2025.
- 49 Arrêté du 19 juin 2025 fixant les règles sanitaires et de protection animale auxquelles doivent satisfaire les activités liées aux animaux de compagnie d'espèces domestiques, JORF n° 0152 du 2 juillet 2025.
- 50 Loi n° 2025-794 du 11 août 2025 visant à lever les contraintes à l'exercice du métier d'agriculteur, JORF n° 0186 du 12 août 2025.
- 51 Arrêté du 28 août 2025 relatif au nombre maximum d'alouettes des champs pouvant être capturées au moyen de pantes dans les départements de la Gironde, des Landes, du Lot-et-Garonne et des Pyrénées-Atlantiques pour la campagne 2025-2026, JORF n° 0203 du 2 septembre 2025.

Greece

- 52 Νόμος 5187/2025 – Αναδιοργάνωση της δομής της Ελληνικής Αστυνομίας και αναβάθμιση της εκπαίδευσης του ένοπλου προσωπικού της- Εκσυγχρονισμός του θεσμού της ηλεκτρονικής επιτήρησης υπόδικων, κατάδικων και κρατούμενων σε άδεια- Ρύθμιση θεμάτων κρατούμενων σε σωφρονιστικά καταστήματα και άλλες διατάξεις, ΦΕΚ Α' 4/21.03.2025.

Hungary

- 53 2025. évi LXXXIX. a műhús előállításának és forgalomba hozatalának tilalmáról szóló 2025. évi LXXXIX. Törvényhez.

Italy

- 54 Legge n. 82/2025 del 6 giugno 2025, Modifiche al codice penale, al codice di procedura penale e altre disposizioni per l'integrazione e l'armonizzazione della disciplina in materia di reati contro gli animali. (25G00089) (Gazzetta Ufficiale Serie Generale n.137 del 16-06-2025).

Lithuania

- 55 Lietuvos Respublikos aplinkos ministro 2025 m. rugsėjo 4 d. įsakymas Nr. D1-126, Dėl Lietuvos Respublikos aplinkos ministro 2002 m. rugsėjo 30 d. įsakymo Nr. 513 'Dėl medžiojamųjų gyvūnų gausos reguliavimo teritorijose, kuriose medžioti draudžiama, tvarkos aprašo patvirtinimo' pakeitimo", TAR, Vilnius, 2025.

Poland

- 56 Rozporządzenia Ministra Zdrowia w sprawie grup środków spożywczych przeznaczonych do sprzedaży dzieciom i młodzieży w jednostkach systemu oświaty oraz wymagań, jakie muszą spełniać środki spożywcze stosowane w ramach żywienia zbiorowego dzieci i młodzieży w tych jednostkach, MZ1787.
- 57 Ustawa z dnia 7 listopada 2025 r. o zmianie ustawy o ochronie zwierząt.

Slovenia

- 58 Zakon o spremembah in dopolnitvah Zakona o zaščiti živali (ZZZiv-G), Uradni list Republike Slovenije, št. 60/2025 z dne 5. avgusta 2025, str. 6971.

Spain

- 59 Real Decreto 159/2023, de 7 de marzo, por el que se establecen disposiciones para la aplicación en España de la normativa de la Unión Europea sobre controles oficiales en materia de bienestar animal, y se modifican varios reales decretos, Boletín Oficial del Estado nº57, de 8 de marzo de 2023, p. 34550 a 34573.
- 60 Real Decreto 315/2025, de 15 de abril 2025, por el que se establecen normas de desarrollo de la Ley 17/2011, de 5 de julio, de seguridad alimentaria y nutrición, para el fomento de una alimentación saludable y sostenible en centros educativos, Boletín Oficial del Estado nº 92 del 16 de abril 2025, p. 53014-53023.
- 61 Orden PJC/549/2025, de 29 de mayo, por la que se regula la composición y funcionamiento del Consejo Estatal de Protección Animal y del Comité Científico y Técnico para la protección y derechos de los animales, Boletín Oficial del Estado nº 131, de 31 de mayo de 2025, p. 70942 a 70948.

4.2. Caselaw

Belgium

- 62 Raad van State (Afdeling Bestuursrechtspraak), Xlle kamer, arrest nr. 262.071 van 22 januari 2025, VZW Landsbond Pluimvee e.a. / Vlaamse Gewest (zaak A. 241.517/XII-9569) — ECLI:BE:RVSCE:2025:ARR.262.071 — vernietiging van het besluit van de Vlaamse Regering van 22 december 2023 "tot vaststelling van de minimumvoorschriften voor de bescherming van kalkoenen".
- 63 België — Nederlandstalige rechtbank van eerste aanleg Brussel, 1e kamer, vonnis van februari 2025, rolNr. 2023/672/A, Federatie van het Belgisch Vlees VZW t. Tierschutzbund Zürich en Animal Welfare Foundation.
- 64 Rechtbank van eerste aanleg Brussel, vonnis van 28 april 2025, Vogelbescherming Vlaanderen vzw en Dryade vzw tegen het Vlaamse Gewest (zgn. "hamsterzaak").
- 65 Conseil d'État (Belgique), section du contentieux administratif, XIIIe chambre, arrêt n° 263.261 du 12 mai 2025, A. 236.552/XIII-9.671, Ligue royale belge pour la protection des oiseaux ASBL c. Région wallonne.
- 66 Conseil d'État (Belgique), section du contentieux administratif, XIIIe chambre, arrêt n° 263.989 du 30 juillet 2025, A. 234.518/XIII-9401 — Ligue royale belge pour la protection des oiseaux (LRBPO) c. Région wallonne.
- 67 "West-Vlaams transportbedrijf verliest vergunning door inbreuken op dierenwelzijn," Vilt.be, September 5th, 2025 (in Dutch).
- 68 Hof van Cassatie van België, Arrest Nr. P.25.0316.N, A vzw tegen V nv, 16 september 2025.
- 69 Hof van Cassatie van België, Arrest Nr. P.25.0400.N I G tegen 1. B bv, 2. G, 3. V, 4. H, 16 september 2025.

Bulgaria

- 70 Върховен административен съд на Република България — Шесто отделение, Решение № 8418 от 11 август 2025 г., по адм. дело № 9959/2024 г., ECLI: BG:VAS:2025:8418 — Фармпро ООД против Министерство на околната среда и водите.

Czechia

- 71 Nejvyšší správní soud, rozsudek ze dne 7. dubna 2025, sp. zn. 5 As 296/2024-36, ECLI: CZ:NSS:2025:5.As.296/2024.36.

Denmark

- 72 Dom i sag om vanrogt af dyr på Naturstyrelsens arealer i Mols Bjerger, May 21st, 2025, Retten i Randers.

France

- 73 Conseil d'État (France), 9^e-10^e chambres réunies, décision n° 465835 du 28 janvier 2025.
- 74 Conseil d'État (France), 9^e-10^e chambres réunies, décision n° 492839 du 28 janvier 2025.
- 75 Conseil d'État (France), décision n° 488718 du 10 février 2025.
- 76 Conseil constitutionnel, décision n° 2024-1121 QPC du 14 février 2025, Association One voice.
- 77 Tribunal des activités économiques de Paris, décision du 27 février 2025, RG n° 2022021570.

- 78 Conseil constitutionnel, décision n° 2024-1126 QPC du 5 mars 2025, Association Préserveons la forêt des Colettes et autres.
- 79 Conseil d'État (France), décision n° 493510 du 18 avril 2025.
- 80 Conseil d'État (France), décision n° 492284 du 16 juin 2025.
- 81 Conseil d'État (France), décision n° 493820 du 16 juin 2025.
- 82 All 18 rulings are available online: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17LBG2TKviya5oLXq_sbuWcRia-p_r3OO?dmr=1&ec=wgc-drive-globalnav-goto
- 83 Conseil d'État (France), décision n° 507799 du 24 septembre 2025.
- 84 Conseil d'État (France), décision n° 507724 du 2 octobre 2025.

Greece

- 84 ΣτΕ Δ' Τμήμα, απόφαση 1514/2025, Πρόστιμα για κακοποίηση ζώων συντροφιάς – άρθρο 21 παρ. 1 περ. 39 ν. 4039/2012 – Απόρριψη αναίρεσης, Συμβούλιο της Επικρατείας.

Netherlands

- 86 College van Beroep voor het bedrijfsleven, uitspraak van 18 februari 2025, GRS 22/646 en 22/1122.
- 87 Rechtbank Den Haag, vonnis 31 juli 2025, SGR 24/2894.
- 88 College van Beroep voor het bedrijfsleven, uitspraak van 22 augustus 2025, GRS 24/478.
- 89 Rechtbank Noord-Holland, 15 oktober 2025, de Stichting [stichting] , uit [plaats] , de stichting en gedeputeerde staten van Noord-Holland, Omgevingsdienst Noord-Holland Noord, ECLI:NL:RBNHO:2025:12125.

Spain

- 90 Tribunal Superior de Justicia de Galicia (Sala de lo Contencioso-Administrativo, Sección 2ª), Sentencia n° 313/2025 du 11 juillet 2025, Recurso n° 4019/2025 (Procedimiento de Derechos Fundamentales), A Coruña.

Editors

Anatole Poinso

Anatole Poinso is a lawyer specializing in EU agricultural, health, and animal law with expertise in transposing EU legislation into national law. He obtained a master's degree in EU Law from the Sorbonne Law School (Paris, France) in 2021 and a master's degree in agro-ecology at AgroParisTech (Paris, France) in 2022.

Hugo Menotti

Hugo Menotti is a Legal Advocacy Manager at the Institute. He worked for ten years in human rights alongside politicians, lawyers, and vulnerable populations in various organizations, including administrative and criminal courts and European institutions. He then spent more than three years providing political advice to around twenty animal welfare NGOs in France. A lawyer by training, Hugo teaches the basics of legislative drafting at university.

Hugo 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.

This document also includes contributions from **Gladys Le Goff** (Junior Researcher) and **Gabriela Kubíková** (Legislative Advocacy Manager).

Acknowledgements

The editors would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to Angie van Dijk (Wakker Dier, Netherlands) and Joren Vuylsteke (Harrison Collectief, Belgium) for their important contributions.

Additionally, the editors would like to thank the Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law & Policy for inspiring this publication and encouraging us to start this project. You can consult the Brooks Institute's Year in Review Compendiums covering recent animal law developments in the US and Canada on their website at <https://thebrooksinstitute.org/compendiums>.

Additional Resources

Newsletter

The Institute's newsletter provides readers with timely EU animal law and policy news, as well as updates from around the world. The newsletter also features job postings, publications, calls for papers, event listings, and more. Our newsletter currently reaches close to one thousand subscribers on a bimonthly basis, and our globally diverse readership includes animal advocates, academics, and government officials in the EU and beyond.

Stay in the loop and subscribe today at <https://animallaweurope.org/publications>.

Research Notes and Special Reports

Each quarter, our newsletter contains a Research Note or a White Report, which are resources that dive deeper into an issue in EU animal law. All of our publications are available for free on our website at <https://animallaweurope.org/publications>.

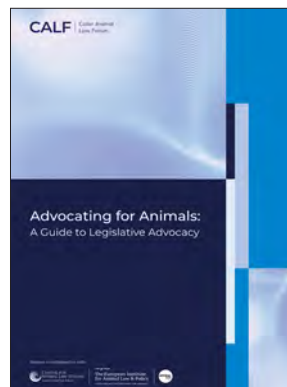
White Papers and Special Reports



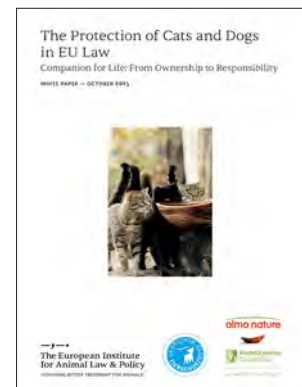
For a More Humane Union: A Legal Assessment of EU Farm Animal Welfare Laws (2022).



Chick and Duckling Killing: Achieving an EU-Wide Prohibition - Update (December 2024). In collaboration with L214.



Advocating for Animals: A Guide to Legislative Advocacy, in collaboration with the Jeremy Coller Foundation (2024).



The Protection of Cats and Dogs in EU Law, in collaboration with Almo Nature, Deutscher Tierschutzbund, and Fondazione Capellino (2025).

Research Notes



How to Submit Feedback to an EU Public Consultation, in collaboration with The Good Lobby (2021).



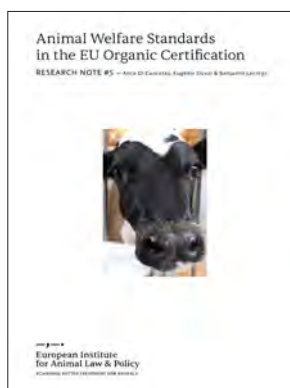
Food Labeling and Animal Welfare (2021).



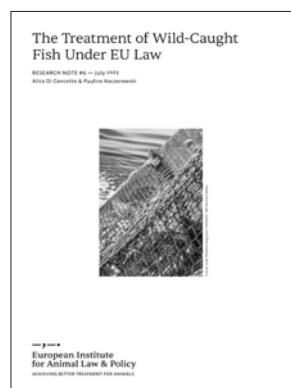
Animals in the EU Agricultural Policy (2022).



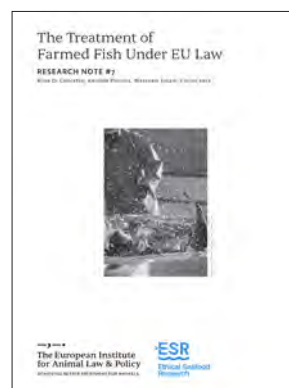
Regulating the Use of Antibiotics in EU Animal Agriculture, in collaboration with the Jeremy Collier Foundation (2022).



Animal Welfare Standards in the EU Organic Certification, in collaboration with Eugénie Duval and Benjamin Lecorps (2022).



The Treatment of Wild-Caught Fish Under EU Law (2023).



The Treatment of Farmed Fish Under EU Law, in collaboration with Ethical Seafood Research (2024).



Agricultural Exceptionalism in EU Environmental Law (2025).

How to cite this document:

***Recent Developments in EU Animal Law: 2025 in Review*, The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy (2026).**

This document is for general information purposes only.

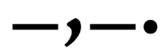
The information provided in this document does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice. Information in this note may not constitute the most up-to-date legal or other information.

This work is licensed under a **CC BY-NC-ND Creative Commons License**, which means you can copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format, but you must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made.

You may copy and redistribute this material in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. You may not use the material for commercial purposes. If you repurpose, transform, or build upon the material, you may not distribute the modified material.

The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy ASBL, Brussels, Belgium, 2025.





The European Institute
for Animal Law & Policy

ACHIEVING BETTER TREATMENT FOR ANIMALS