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Brussels, 6 September 2023

Open letter: call for publication of updated animal welfare legislative proposal within current political term.

Dear President,

We, the undersigned stakeholders, jointly call on the European Commission to stay true to the commitments taken in the EU Farm to Fork Strategy to publish the draft proposal of the revision of the animal welfare legislation during the current political term.

As the revision of the animal welfare legislation moves towards its due publication date in Q3 of 2023, **the undersigned stakeholders wish to express their expectation and full support for the swift publication of a future-focussed and comprehensive legislative proposal within this political term.**

The current animal welfare legislation is outdated and in need of an urgent update to respond to societal expectations and scientific evidence, both of which have evolved dramatically while EU animal welfare rules have largely remained unchanged.

1. The existing legislation does not adequately serve the demonstrated concerns of European citizens.

The revision of the animal welfare legislation is a key priority for EU citizens, as demonstrated by the exceptionally high participation in the 2022 public consultation organised by the European Commission around the fitness check of the outdated rules. An overwhelming majority (92% - 54 504 of 59 281) of the respondents thought that the current EU animal welfare legislation does not ensure adequate and uniform protection of all animal species in need. The importance of animal welfare to EU citizens is also demonstrated by the fact that five of the ten successful European Citizens' Initiatives were related to animal welfare.

2. The existing legislation does not reflect current scientific knowledge and therefore cannot guarantee acceptable levels of animal welfare.

Over 181,000 peer-reviewed scientific papers on animal welfare have been published in the last 25 years. In light of the advancements in scientific knowledge and

technology, the existing directives and regulations can be readily deemed outdated and insufficient in protecting the welfare of animals in Europe. The latest European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) opinions also show that, at present, animal welfare legislation is no longer fit for purpose. Furthermore, EFSA has also highlighted the need for clearly defined, measurable and harmonised on-farm animal welfare indicators and concluded that improvement would be difficult to achieve without these guidelines. Protections to the welfare of animals throughout the production chain (from birth to slaughter) contain critical areas of collective concern that can no longer be overlooked. The existing legislation has also proven difficult for Member States to enforce, with the recent report by the European Court of Auditors drawing attention to this critical gap.

3. Delay in the release of updated animal welfare legislation will cost European farmers and food businesses.

A revised EU animal welfare legislation will not only benefit the animals. It will also offer a level playing field for businesses across Europe, particularly the ones that have already made animal welfare commitments.

At this moment, market forces, environmental considerations and outdated infrastructure are forcing farmers to make decisions on their next round of investments in renovating their farms. The systems selected for adoption will have an enormous impact on animal welfare for decades to come. A revised animal welfare legislation will provide guidance and security needed to make decisions that are fit for the purpose of higher welfare, but also fit for the future of businesses. Such revised legislation will also constitute a financial guarantee when it comes to getting loans for higher welfare investments, as well as better financing opportunities. Furthermore, provided that the new animal welfare rules apply to imported products, EU farmers will benefit from fair competition when placing products in the European market.

Finally, a stronger and updated animal welfare legislative framework will complement the EU Farm to Fork strategy in its aims to make the European food system fair, healthy and more sustainable. Improving animal welfare standards is an important component of this endeavour, while also representing the expressed environmental, societal, ethical and economic interests of European citizens, businesses and governments alike.

For these reasons we, the undersigned stakeholders, deem it necessary that an updated, strong and encompassing proposal of the EU animal welfare legislation is published swiftly by the current European Commission.

Signatories

As **animal welfare academics, researchers, veterinarians and scientists**, we believe that, in accordance with current scientific knowledge, the current legislation is insufficient to protect the welfare of animals. As such, we urge the swift publication of a future-focussed and

comprehensive legislative proposal within this political term.

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Dr. Sarah Kappel, United Kingdom

Prof. Sarah Wolfensohn, University of Surrey, United Kingdom

Prof. Saskia S. Arndt Utrecht University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Behaviour group, The Netherlands

Dr. Satu Raussi, Finnish Centre for Animal Welfare, Finland

Dr. Scott Miller BVSc MRCVS, United Kingdom

Dr. Sébastien Goumon, ETH Zürich, Switzerland

Prof. Sheila Crispin, United Kingdom

Dr. Shireen Kassam, University of Winchester, United Kingdom
Prof. Sibylle, Wenzel Landestierschutz, Bremen, Germany
Prof. Silvana Diverio, Perugia University, Italy
Dr. Silvia Zanini, Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona, Spain
Prof. Simona Normando, Università degli studi di Padova, Italy
Prof. Siobhan Mullan, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine, Ireland
Prof. Skender Muji, Kosova
Dr. Søren Stig Andersen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
Dr. Sparsha Saha, Harvard University, United States
Dr. Stefan Gunnarsson, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden
Dr. Stephanie Lürzel, Vetmeduni Vienna, Austria
Prof. Stevan Harnad, University of Southampton, Université du Québec à Montréal and McGill University, United Kingdom
Dr. Steve Cooke, University of Leicester, United Kingdom
Dr. Steven De Smedt, Secretary SAVAB-Flanders VZW, Belgium
Svein Rasmussen, Norway
Prof. T. Bas Rodenburg, Utrecht University, The Netherlands
Dr. Thierry Bedossa, veterinarian, founder and association president, animal behaviourist and trainer, France
Dipl.-Ing. Thomas Powell, Aktion Kirche und Tiere (AKUT), Germany
Dr. Tiina Kauppinen, the Finnish Centre for Animal Welfare, Finland
Prof. Tim Jackson, University of Surrey, United Kingdom
Prof. Tim Lang, City University of London, United Kingdom
Prof. Toby Knowles, Professor of Farming and Food Science, School of Veterinary Science, University of Bristol, United Kingdom
Dr. Toni Vernelli, United Kingdom
Torsten Schmidt, Dipl. Biol., Germany
Prof. Urmas Saarma, Institute of Ecology and Earth Sciences, University of Tartu, Estonia
Urška Petek, Šolska, Veterinarska ambulanta, Slovenia
Dr. Valérie Croisille, Université de Limoges, France
Dr. Valerie Fillon, INRAE, France
Venla Henriikka Mathlein, The Finnish Animal Rights Law Society, Finland
Veronika Preskar DVM, Slovenia
Prof. Véronique Servais, University of Liège, Belgium
Dr. Victoria Marincheva, University of Forestry Sofia, Bulgaria
Dr. Victoria Munro, Veterinarian, United Kingdom
Prof. Visa Kurki, University of Helsinki, Finland
Prof. Vlatko Ilieski, University Ss Cyril and Methodius Skopje, North Macedonia
Dr. Volker Moser, President of UEVP & FVE delegate of ÖTK, Austria
Dr. Walter Sánchez Suárez, Scientific researcher on animal welfare, public health, and sustainable food systems at Mercy for Animals, Spain
Dr. Wasseem Emam, Director, United Kingdom
Dr. William Voorberg, Naturalis Biodiversity Centre

Dr. Wladimir J. Alonso, Center for Welfare Metric, Brazil
Prof. Wojciech Pisula, Institute of Psychology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland
Yosef Wolfson, Tel Aviv University, Israel
Adv. Yotam Shlomo, Yotam Shlomo, Environmental Regulation Clinic, Bar-Ilan University
Israel
Dr. Zbigniew Blimke, Polish Small Animal Veterinary Association, Poland
Prof. Zbigniew M. Karaczun, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Poland
Dr. Zombor Berezvai, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary
Zuzanna Genderka, DVM, Poland
Dr. Zuzanna Jagiello, Poland

As **farmers and food businesses**, we require the security that our investments for the future will deliver on our welfare commitments and mandates. As such, we urge the swift publication of a future-focussed and comprehensive legislative proposal within this political term.

Unilever, Annick Boyen, The Netherlands
Auchan Polska sp. z o.o., Ewa Malecka, Poland
Euro Coop, Fabrizio Fabbri, Belgium
IFOAM Organics Europe, Eduardo Cuoco, Belgium
The Body Shop, Gordon Roddick
KipsterRuud Zanders, The Netherlands
Apollo Roślinny Qurczak, Iga Czubak, Poland
Aramark Germany, Arnd Rune Thomas, Germany
Bente K. Wennevik, Bente Karin Wennevik, Norway
Biodynamic Federation Demeter International, Clara Behr, Germany
Bund Ökologische Lebensmittelwirtschaft e.V., Hanna Treu, Germany
Michael Gottlieb, United Kingdom
CEO of Eat the Change and co-founder of PLNT Burger, Seth Goldman, United States
Folk poultry farmer's association of Latvia, Lāsma Midrijāne, Latvia Foodtech.ac.,
Piotr Grabowski, Poland
Danish Plant-Based Business Association, Malte Clausen, Denmark
Egg and egg product producer, Balticovo, JSC, Latvia
FaithInvest, Martin Palmer
FEDIAF – The European Pet Food Industry
Robert Nijkamp, Netherlands
Future Friendly Farm Matylda Szyrle, Head of sustainability Berika AS, Poland
IG FÜR, Georg Sedlmaier, Germany
Naturland, Steffen Reese, Germany
Nederlandse Voedingsindustrie Gezelschapsdieren B. Beekhof, The Netherlands
Nice To Fit You, Radosław Jeżak, Chairman of the Board, Poland Oda Norway
AS, Aurora Vildskog, Co-Founder & Board Member, Norway Pinhook Farm Seth

Watkins, United States
Karolina Poznar, Poland
Roman Wierzbicki, Poland
Restaurateur Kristjan Peäske, Founding President, Estonia
Restoran ÜLO Miina Saak, Estonia
Serio sp. z o.o. Michał Gaszyński, Poland
Tälist Pia Voltz, Director, Germany
TASSO Haustierzentral register für die Bundesrepublik, Deutschland
The Darling Experiment Limited, Jonathan Self
Anni McLeod, United Kingdom
Eva Pfeffer, Italia
Daniel Szostek, Poland
Katarzyna Piechocka, Poland
Marek Dytkowski, Poland
Piotr Limowski, Poland
Monika Koper, Poland
Monika Piechowska, Poland
Małgorzata Domańska, Co-founder, Poland
Réka Szöllősi, Founder, Hungary
Jaap Korteweg, The Netherlands
Dr. Krowarzywa Krzysztof Bozek. Poland
Martyna PolakMAG, Poland
Janno Lepik, Estonia
Rene Treifeldt, Estonia
Kevin Brennan, United Kingdom
Rosamund Young, United Kingdom
Jüri Veldemaa, Estonia
Kalev Veeakeskus Oü, Estonia
Peeter Putnik, Estonia
Daanius Aas, Estonia
Teele Vares, Estonia
Karola Kivilo, Estonia

As **non-profit organisations who represent the interests of citizens**, we believe that the current legislation is insufficient to meet the expectations of the public for safe and healthy food from animals with high welfare. As such, we urge the swift publication of a future-focussed and comprehensive legislative proposal within this political term.

BEUC, Monique Goyens, Belgium
Seas At Risk, Tobias Troll, Belgium

EEB - European Environmental Bureau, Secretary General, Patrick ten Brink, Belgium
Slow Food
Legambiente, Stefano Ciafani, President
International One Health for One Planet Initiative, Global Lead, George Lueddeke
Foodwatch, Foodwatch, Netherlands
Dame Joanna Lumley, United Kingdom
Miriam Margolyes OBE, United Kingdom
Agir Pour l'Environnement, Marie-Jeanne Husset, France
Agriculture campaigner - Friends of the Earth France, Sarah Champagne, France
Agroecology Europe, Dr. Marcos Lana
Aktion Agrar, Catharina Rubel, Germany
Alliance to Save Our Antibiotics, Cólín Nunan, United Kingdom
Animal Law Centre, Shreya Padukone, India
Ann Criel - SAVAB Flanders Vice - president, Dr. Ann Criel, Belgium
APMVEAC, Dr. Emir Chaher, Portugal
Arba Iselda Livoni President of Arba Peru, Peru
Association for International Affairs, Oldřich Sklenář, Czech Republic
Attorney-at-Law J.D., Dr. h.c. Antoine F. Goetschel, Switzerland
Autonomy foundation, Juniper foundation, Sisterhood Street informal group
Agata Teutsch, Poland
Buddhist Global Relief Chair, Bhikkhu Bodhi, United States
Buy Better Food Campaign Coordinator, Jean-Marc Louvin
Chair, Christian Vegetarian Association, Stephen R. Kaufman, MD, United States
Charity Entrepreneurship, Karolina Sarek, United Kingdom
Circolo di Filosofia APS, Dr. Francesco Baroni, Italy
Co-director of Effective Altruism Estonia, Triin Teesalu, Estonia
Coordinator for Agriculture and Biodiversity Policy, Deutscher Naturschutzring
e.V. Lavinia Roveran, Germany
Député écologiste, Fournier Charles, France
EAT Foundation, Gunhild Stordalen .
Ekologi brez meja, Katja Sreš, Slovenia
Eläinsuojeluasiamies, Dr. Marianna Norring, Finland
Executive Director & President of the Board, Akcja Demokracja, Karolina Skowron-Baka
Poland
Federación de Consumidores y Usuarios CECU, David Sánchez Carpio, Spain
Focused on Nature, Prince Hussain Aga Khan
Fondation pour la Nature et l'Homme, France
Fondazione Ecosistemi, Sabina Nicolella
Food Evolution, Alberto Musacchio, Italy
Foundation Trop, Jakubowski Jacek, Poland
Founder Director, Food And Behaviour Research, Dr. Alex Richardson, United Kingdom
France Nature Environnement, Antoine Gatet, France
FRC, Dr. Anna Walas, Poland

Freelance, Dr. Grazia Francescato, Italia
Pierre Rigaux, France
Fundacja Dobre Sąsiedztwo, att.Artur Zalewski, Poland
Fundacja GAP Polska - Plan Globalnego Działania na rzecz Ziemi, Stan Nitak, Poland
Fundacja Optimum Pareto, Marcin Woźniak, Poland
Fundacja Rozwoju Młodych Liderow, Board Director, Fundacja Rozwoju Młodych Liderow , Poland
Fundacja Rozwoju Społeczeństwa Cyfrowego, Board Director, Fundacja Rozwoju Społeczeństwa Cyfrowego, Poland
Juglas dzīvnieku aizsardzības grupa, Jana Streleca Latvia
KCMG Prof.David Madden
Koalicja Społeczna Stop Fermom Przemysłowym, Stowarzyszenie Otwarte Klatki Bartosz Zajac, Poland
Kodeń jest Nasz, Dariusz Mackiewicz, Poland
KSG CBE, Rabbi David Rosen,
Consumer Asociation Acucc, Argentina, Gisela Riccardi, Laywer - Corporate Engagement Manager Sinergia Animal Argentina and Vice-Presidente
Mathematician, University of Lyon I, former deputy, former president of the Scientific Parliamentary Office (OPECST), Prof.Cédric Villani
Member of Parliament , Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, India
Member of the House of Lords of the United Kingdom, Lord Zac Goldsmith, United Kingdom
Metaverse Foundation, Fundacja 'Metaverse', Poland
New Harvest, Isha Datar, Canada
Organic Denmark, Head farm and food policy Organic Denmark, Sybille Kyed, Denmark
Planted Foods AG, Marta Residori
Polish Society of Lifestyle Medicine, Dr.Alicja Baska, Poland
President of the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals, Bishop Dominic Walker, United Kingdom
Ratujmy kleszczowskie wąwozy, Anna Treit, Poland
Regeneration International, Dr.Prof. Dr. André Leu D.Sc, United States
River Cottage, (a Vice-president of Fauna and Flora International), FounderHugh, Fearnley Whittingstall
Rodzice dla Klimatu, Marzena Wichniarz, Poland
Rodzice dla Klimatu - Parents for Future PL Rodzice dla Klimatu - Parents for Future PL, Poland
Secretary General Replanet, Karolina Lisslo Gylfe, Sweden
Sentient Media, Mikko Järvenpää, Finland
Stadtbiene Johannes Weber, Germany
Stiftung Stoltz auf Elbing, Kamil Nowak MSc, Poland
Stowarzyszenie Prawnicy na Rzecz Zwierząt, MGR Maria Januszczyk, Poland
Suomen luonnonsuojeluliitto (Finnish Association for Nature Conservation)
Tapani Veistola, Finland
Synchronicity Earth, Jessica Sweidan, United Kingdom

The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development, Founder & Executive Director. Rabbi Yonatan Neril

The Polish Foundation for Effective Altruism, Chris Szulc, Poland

Tierärzte für Tiere , Germany

Tierärzte für verantwortbare Landwirtschaft e.V.

Tierärztliche Vereinigung für Tierschutz e.V. (TVT), Dr. Andreas Franzky, Germany

UK Centre for Animal Law, Paula Sparks, United Kingdom

Alicja Michałowska, Poland

Alpe Adria Green international, non-governmental, apolitical and non-profit environmental organisation, Slovenia

Amir Kassam, United Kingdom

Aneta Ptak, Poland

Anna Zaremba, Poland

Aureliusz Leżeński, Poland

Dominika Szaciłło, Poland

Magister Elżbieta Styczeń, Poland

Mstr.Fernando Eduardo Arroyo Avilés, Ecuador

Graham Harvey, United Kingdom

Hannah Surowinski, United Kingdom

Isa Maline Isene, Norway

Dr Joanna Studzińska, Poland

Julian Richer, United Kingdom

Karolina Obajtek, Poland

Lady Katya Lester, United Kingdom

Latvian Permaculture Association, Latvia

The Revd.Lindsay Meader, United Kingdom

Luiz Mazzon Neto, Brazil

Journalist dr. Manuela Valletti Ghezzi, Italy

Maria Gembarzewska-Truong, Poland

Martina Luisetti United Kingdom

Mattias Turoski MSs, Estonia

Dr.Mihkel Kangur , Estonia

Dr.Miłosława Stępień, Poland

NEGYOSZ Hungary - National Association of Producers and Distributors, Hungary

NGO Estonian Green Movement, Estonia

MBE Nitin Mehta, United Kingdom

Dr.Paola Sobbrío, Italy

Paula Zuk, Poland

Petya Altimirska, Bulgaria

Polish Ecological Club in Cracow, Gliwice Chapter, Poland

Bishop Richard Llewellyn, United Kingdom

Ros Draper, United Kingdom

Stowarzyszenie EKIPA Z BAGIEN, Poland

Stowarzyszenie TU ŻYJEMY, Poland

Tommi Saarikivi LL.M, Finland

Umanotera, The Slovenian Foundation for Sustainable Development, Slovenia