



ADOPTED TEXT N° 493

Provisional Act

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

CONSTITUTION OF 4 OCTOBER 1958

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE

2020-2021 ORDINARY SESSION

1st November 2020

EUROPEAN RESOLUTION

on the **Protection of Animal Welfare**
in the **European Union**

Is considered as final, pursuant to Article 151-7 of the Rules of Procedure, the resolution which reads as follows:

See number: 3345.

Single Article

The National Assembly,

Having regard to Article 88-4 of the Constitution,

Having regard to Article 151-7 of the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly,

Having regard to Articles 13 and 38 to 44 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Council Directive 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes, Council Directive 2008/120/EC of 18 December 2008 laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs, Council Directive 1999/74/EC of 19 July 1999 laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens and Council Directive 2007/43/EC of 28 June 2007 laying down minimum rules for the protection of chickens kept for meat production,

Having regard to Directive 2010/63/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2010 on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes,

Having regard to Council Directive 1999/22/EC of 29 March 1999 relating to the keeping of wild animals in zoos,

Having regard to Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds,

Having regard to Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) N° 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EEC and Regulation EC N° 1255/97,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) N° 1099/2009 of 24 September 2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing,

Having regard to the communication by the European Commission of 15 January 2012 on the European Union Strategy for the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2012-2015 (COM[2012] 6 final),

Having regard to the communication by the European Commission of 20 May 2020 called “A Farm to Fork Strategy – for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system” (COM[2020] 381 final),

Having regard to the communication by the European Commission of 20 May 2020 called “EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 – Bringing nature back into our lives” (COM[2020] 380 final),

Considering that the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union requires that the EU take into consideration animal welfare in defining certain policies, particularly the Common Agricultural Policy;

Considering that protecting animal welfare represents a strong expectation of citizens of the Member States;

Considering that the European Union represents an appropriate and effective level of animal welfare regulation in several sectors of activity and has extensive – although as of yet incomplete – regulation on this subject;

Considering that animal welfare must be seen as an opportunity for European agriculture rather than a constraint, and that the current negotiations to define a Common Agricultural Policy for 2021-2027 is a significant opportunity to improve the way in which animal welfare is taken into account in the distribution of European agricultural subsidies;

Considering that it is of paramount importance for the European Union to have an up-to-date and concrete strategy to enforce animal welfare standards;

Considering that the challenge of implementing standards remains the core issue of European animal welfare policies;

On the European method and tools to take animal welfare into consideration

1. Calls on the European Commission to swiftly adopt a new overarching and up-to-date strategy on animal welfare that sets concrete objectives with specific indicators;
2. Advocates for the inclusion, in all negotiations of trade treaties between the European Union and third countries, of a level of requirement equivalent to the one applicable to the EU in the area of animal welfare;
3. Encourages the European Union to rely more heavily on scientific bodies, especially the European Food Safety Agency, to supplement regulations and update them on a more regular basis in light of scientific advances;

On the farming, transport and slaughter of animals for human consumption

4. Asks that controls and sanctions be significantly strengthened for non-compliance with European Union farm animal welfare rules and for a European harmonisation of control and sanction procedures;
5. Recommends to update the above-mentioned Council Directive 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 in order to include specific provisions for species whose welfare is still not regulated – in particular sheep, rabbits, dairy cows, turkeys, ducks and fish;
6. Encourages the implementation, within the first pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy, of a more comprehensive conditionality of direct subsidies to compliance with European animal welfare legislation, by including the standards for broilers and layers.
7. Recommends that the benefit of coupled support under the Common Agricultural Policy be made conditional upon compliance with high animal welfare standards, especially access to pastures;
8. Calls for future “eco-schemes” to include an ambitious animal welfare objective, under the first pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy;

9. Encourages the European Union to give priority to the financing of investments that safeguard respect for animal welfare, within the framework of the Common Agricultural Policy;

10. Calls for the strengthening of legislation on the welfare of pigs, sheep and cattle by setting mandatory harmonised means to achieve the objective of a total eradication of tail docking and castration without anaesthesia of pigs, sheep and cattle and partial sectioning of teeth;

11. Believes it is crucial to raise the ambitions of European Union legislation on chickens kept for meat production, by respecting the strict maximum stocking density limit of 33 kilograms per square metre without the possibility of derogation and by banning beak trimming of poultry;

12. Encourages the European Union to set more specific and more ambitious standards for the welfare of fish – both farmed and from commercial fishing;

13. Proposes to establish a non-renewable maximum time limit for the transport of live animals, on the basis of scientific expertise;

14. Advocates for the creation of a “proximity principle” which, as a result, must give priority to the transport of carcasses over live animals and lead to a ban on the export and import of live animals to third countries when the logbook contains stops at checkpoints or in resting areas in third countries;

15. Calls for the transport of unweaned animals to be limited to a non-renewable period of eight hours and for a ban on the transport of pregnant females which have exceeded two thirds of the gestation period;

16. Encourages the European Union to implement stricter standards for the transport of animals by sea;

17. Proposes to implement a measure specifically dedicated to investments that foster animal welfare in slaughterhouses, within the second pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy;

18. Encourages reflection and research with stakeholders on ways to shorten animal suffering after jugulation, slaughtered in compliance with the derogations provided for by Member States;

19. Calls for the inclusion of places where farmed fish are slaughtered within the scope of the above-mentioned Regulation (EC) N° 1099/2009 of 24 September 2009 and encourages reflection on the conditions for the killing of fish from commercial fisheries;

20. Supports the creation of a European Union-wide label on all products of animal origin determining the level of animal welfare, with a view to meeting consumer information obligations;

On the welfare of animals used for scientific purposes

21. Believes it is indispensable to enhance the role of the European Centre for the Validation of Experimental Methods (ECVAM) by allocating to it additional financial resources and by setting more ambitious objectives for the approval of alternative methods allowing for the total replacement of animals; proposes to use alternative methods as a tool for European scientific influence by making these methods patentable and by affording them the opportunity to be published in scientific journals;

On the welfare of companion animals and the fight against pet trafficking

22. Proposes the creation of a European system of geographical identification (“country code”) and compulsory registration of dogs and cats, as well as a European platform designed to enhance cooperation between Member States;

23. Calls for the revision of Directive 2000/31/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2000 on certain legal aspects of information society services, in particular electronic commerce, in the Internal Market (“Directive on electronic commerce”) in order to strengthen the preconditions for the sale of companion animals on digital platforms and to give them the means to monitor and warn about suspicious movements of companion animals;

24. Suggests that the European Union adopt a “blacklist” of pet shops that do not comply with European rules, of underground breeding sites, as well as a European file of approved breeders;

25. Believes it is necessary for the European Union to develop a procedure to identify the age of the animal and to prohibit the sale of animals – primarily puppies – below a certain age;

26. Calls for an EU-wide ban on intentional mutilation of pets, especially the cutting off of tails and ears;

On the welfare of wild animals

27. Proposes a ban on trade in ivory as part of the EU “Biodiversity Strategy for 2030” within the European Union, as well as a ban on the sale of products from animals for which hunting and fishing are banned, especially shark fins;

28. Calls on the European Commission to propose a harmonised basic legislation designed to regulate very strictly the presence of wild animals in circuses within the European Union, to regulate much more closely the conditions under which these animals are treated and to prohibit their reproduction in these facilities;

29. Suggests that the aforementioned Council Directive 1999/22/EC of 29 March 1999 be supplemented by defining, in particular, minimum standards to guarantee decent housing conditions for animals, as well as an emergency plan in the event of any crisis; considers it essential to substantially enhance EU regulations on the living conditions of cetaceans in dolphinariums;

30. Supports the European Commission’s objective to develop a truly harmonised plan to implement above-mentioned Directives 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 and 92/43/EC of 24 May 1992 as part of its “Biodiversity Strategy 2030”;

31. Calls on the European Commission to reflect on the legal recognition and specific protection of the welfare of free ranging wildlife;

32. Suggests that aspects pertaining to the welfare of commercially caught fish should be included in EU regulation on the Common Fisheries Policy, especially the recognition of the sensitivity of the animals caught, the duty to prevent avoidable suffering of animals in fishing, the prohibition on the use of susceptible animals as live bait and recommendations to limit the suffering of animals in fishing;

33. Proposes to include an objective to limit by-catches of endangered species in commercial fisheries, as well as specific methods and substantial investments to this end, in the “Biodiversity Strategy 2030”;

34. Asks that “remote monitoring” be made compulsory, that is the setting up of cameras at the stern of fishing vessels in order to film the hauling of nets;

35. Calls for a ban on non-selective fishing practices in marine areas classified as “Natura 2000”;

36. Strongly encourages the European Union to draw up a positive list of animals that can be imported, rather than specifically banning certain species, and suggests banning the entry onto European territory of any species protected in its country of origin;

37. Calls on the European Commission to complete its Biodiversity Strategy by including both the issue of exotic animals used as companion animals and the fight against their illegal trade.

Paris, 1st November 2020.

President,

Signed: RICHARD FERRAND

Debated at public session in Paris, 21 July 2020.

President,

Signed: RICHARD FERRAND

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