

Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal
Stella Kyriakides, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety
Janusz Wojciechowski, Commissioner for Agriculture
European Commission
Berlaymont, Rue de la Loi 200
1000 Brussels



5 December 2019

Over 160 organisations call on you to end caged farming

Dear Executive Vice-President Timmermans,
Dear Commissioners Kyriakides and Wojciechowski,

On behalf of **over 160 organisations** supporting the record-breaking European Citizens' Initiative to **End the Cage Age**, allow me to extend our warmest congratulations on your new roles. One of the key challenges we urge you to tackle during this mandate is that of caged farming systems, which cause immense suffering to animals. We call on you to **re-establish the EU as the leader in animal welfare** by phasing out the use of cages in farming.

EU citizens care deeply about animals. The record-breaking Initiative to End the Cage Age has surpassed the minimum threshold in **21 EU Member States**¹ – a first in the history of European Citizens' Initiatives. It also gathered over **1.6 million statements of support** from EU citizens. This is very much in line with the latest Eurobarometer poll, which showed that 94% of Europeans place importance on the need to protect the welfare of farm animals.

Nonetheless, every year **over 300 million animals** in Europe spend all, or a significant part, of their lives imprisoned in cages. Egg-laying hens and rabbits raised for meat are kept in space about the area of an A4 sheet of paper, and almost all sows spend half of every year inside cages, in which they cannot even turn around. This causes tremendous suffering, as these sentient beings cannot perform most of their natural behaviours.

Intensive animal agriculture causes great suffering, is unsustainable, and it drives the current **climate breakdown**. In August this year, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change established that agriculture, forestry and other land use represent 23% of total net anthropogenic emissions. Earlier this year, the EAT-Lancet Commission confirmed that the only healthy diet within planetary boundaries is one which is rich in plant-based foods.

¹ Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Across Europe, many retailers have gone cage-free or have announced similar commitments. Leading businesses are listening to their customers who demand higher welfare standards. This is a very promising sign for even more commitments in the future.

EU farm legislation stipulates that “the freedom of movement of an animal ... must not be restricted to cause unnecessary suffering”. It also states that “where an animal is continuously or regularly confined, it must be given the space appropriate to its physiological and ethological needs in accordance with established experience and scientific knowledge.”

We call on you to **introduce legislation to end the inhumane practice of farming animals in cages**. We also urge you to enable the move to farming systems that will be in a position to combat against the climate breakdown, reverse the biodiversity loss, fix the public health crisis, transition away from cages, and – of course – reduce animal suffering.

For more information about the campaign, please visit **www.endthecageage.eu** or refer to the report² in attachment.

We send you our best wishes for your new roles and we look forward to your constructive proposals during this mandate.

Yours sincerely,



Philip Lymbery

CEO, Compassion in World Farming

On behalf of:

1. Anastasia Aravantinou, President, **Achaic Society for the Care of Animals, Patras Greece – ASCA** – Greece
2. Stavros Kalpakis, President, **Action for Wildlife** – Greece
3. Vivi Katifori, President, **Adespotologio** – Greece
4. Despina Avramidou, President, **Aesop Cultural – Ecological Animal Welfare Organisation** – Greece
5. Caroline Brousseau, President, **AFAAD** – France
6. Konstantinos Tsilimekis, COO, **Albert Schweitzer Stiftung für unsere Mitwelt** – Germany
7. Claire Starozinski, President, **Alliance Anticorrida** – France
8. Lazaros Inzesiloglou, Secretary of the Board, **Amfipoli Society** – Greece
9. Andri Isaak, President, **Ammochostos Dog Rescuers** – Cyprus

² Compassion in World Farming (2019) *End the Cage Age: Why the EU Must Stop Caging Farm Animals*. Available online at <https://www.ciwf.org.uk/media/7434596/end-the-cage-age-why-the-eu-must-stop-caging-farm-animals.pdf>

10. Alberto Díez Michelena, Director, **ANDA** – Spain
11. Paul McGlone, Chief Executive Officer, **Animal Action Hellas/Greek Animal Welfare Fund** – Greece and the United Kingdom
12. Dora Mavrona, President, **Animal Care Lefkas** – Greece
13. Matteo Cupi, Executive Director and member of the International Board of Animal Equality, **Animal Equality** and **Animal Equality Italia** – International and Italy
14. Alessandro Ricciuti, President, **Animal Law Italia** – Italy
15. Irini Molfessi, President, **Animal Protection Aegina and Agistri** – Greece
16. Kati Pulli, Executive Director, **Animal Protection Finland** – Finland
17. Vaso Hatzimanoli, President, **Animal Refuge – Thessaloniki** – Greece
18. Susan Mc Grain, President, **Animal Rescue Kos – Kivotos** – Greece
19. Anastasia Bobolaki, President, **Animal Welfare and Environmental Federation** – Greece
20. Aikaterini Zervaki, President, **Animal Welfare Association Filis Attikis AGAPAZO** – Greece
21. Efi Griva, President, **Animal Welfare Association of Phthiotis** – Greece
22. Vasia Doa, President, **Animal Welfare Association of Pyrgos** – Greece
23. Florika Tsirogianni, President, **Animal Welfare Association of Volos Kosmos and Nature** – Greece
24. Iro Katsarou, President, **Animal Welfare Initiative of Hellenicon Argynroupolis** – Greece
25. Haralambos Viores, President, **Animal Welfare of Eretria “Argos”** – Greece
26. Despina Kalogeropoulou, President, **Animal Welfare Paros** – Greece
27. Aneta Tselepi, President, **Animal Welfare Society of Xanthi – FOX** – Greece
28. Luise Schintlmeister, Board Member, **animal.fair** – Austria
29. Heidi Kivekäs, Executive Director, **Animalia** – Finland
30. Walter Caporale, President, **Animalisti Italiani** – Italy
31. Sophie Greger, International Project Development, **Animals’ Angels e.V.** – Germany
32. Melanie Reiner, Managing director, **ANIMALS UNITED e.V.** – Germany
33. Francisco Vásquez Neira, President, **AnimaNaturalis** – Spain
34. Stella Stylianou, President, **ARGOS** – Cyprus
35. Carmen Méndez López, President, **Asociación Defensa Derechos Animal – Ong ADDA** – Spain
36. Virginia Iniesta Orozco, Vicepresident, **AVATMA** – Spain
37. Karsten Plücker, Chair of the Board, **Bund gegen Missbrauch der Tiere e.V.** – Germany
38. Petya Altimirska, President, **Campaigns and Activism for Animals in the Industry (CAAI)** – Bulgaria
39. Marius Kolff, Director, **CAS International (Comité Anti Stierenvechten)** – the Netherlands
40. Dinos Agiomammitis, President, **Cat Protecting and Welfare Society** – Cyprus
41. Christine Grandjean, President, **C'EST ASSEZ !** – France
42. Romana Sonkova, Representative, **CIWF Czechia** – Czechia
43. Patricia de Rada, Representative, **CIWF España** – Spain
44. Olga Kikou, Head of Office, **CIWF EU** – Europe

45. Léopoldine Charbonneaux, Director, **CIWF France** – France
46. Annamaria Pisapia, Director, **CIWF Italia Onlus** – Italy
47. Geert Laugs, Director, **CIWF Nederland** – the Netherlands
48. Małgorzata Szadkowska, Head of Office, **CIWF Polska** – Poland
49. Dr Nick Palmer, Head of Office, **CIWF UK** – the United Kingdom
50. Mara Colla, President, **Confconsumatori** – Italy
51. Mary Anastasi, President, **Cyprus Voice for Animals** – Cyprus
52. Thomas Schröder, President, **Deutscher Tierschutzbund e.V.** – Germany
53. Jan Peifer, Chairman, **Deutsches Tierschutzbüro e.V.** – Germany
54. Camilla Bergvall, President, **Djurens Rätt** – Sweden
55. Åsa Hagelstedt, Secretary General, **Djurskyddet Sverige (Animal Welfare Sweden)** – Sweden
56. Dr. Ines Lenk, President, **Doctors Against Animal Experiments** – Germany
57. Maša Cerjak Kastelic, Legal Representative, **Društvo za zaščito živali Ljubljana** – Slovenia
58. Britta Riis, Director, **Dyrenes Beskyttelse / Animal Protection Denmark** – Denmark
59. Peter Mollerup, Chairman, **Dyrenes Venner Denmark** – Denmark
60. Marie-Laure Laprade, President, **Education Ethique Animale** – Greece
61. David Herrero, President & Co-founder, **Equalia** – Spain
62. Emilia Kyriakou, President, **ESPI – Greek Association for the Protection of Equines** – Greece
63. Reineke Hameleers, Director, **Eurogroup for Animals** – Europe
64. Jeremy Wates, Secretary General, **European Environmental Bureau** – European
65. Lesley Moffat, Director, **Eyes on Animals** – International
66. Carla Cornella, Founder and President of the Board, **FAADA** – Spain
67. Marilena Diamantopoulou, President, **Filozoiko Somateio Limnou Stray Souls** – Greece
68. Katerina Peloni, President, **Filozoikos Omilos Kalamatas** – Greece
69. Evi Thanou, President, **Filozoikos Omilos Karditsas Filokardi** – Greece
70. Martin Rücker, Executive Director, **foodwatch Germany** – Germany
71. Nicole van Gemert, Executive Director, **foodwatch Netherlands** – Netherlands
72. Dr. Martina Stephany, Director Farm Animals and Nutrition, **FOUR PAWS** – International
73. Pierre Sultana, Director, **FOUR PAWS - European Policy Office** – Europe
74. Marina Ivanova, Director, **FOUR PAWS Bulgaria** – Bulgaria
75. Brian da Cal, Director UK, **FOUR PAWS UK** – United Kingdom
76. Cristina Cojocă, Director, **Freedom and Respect for Every Earthling – F.R.E.E.** – Romania
77. Sofia Leontiadou, President, **Frontizo Animal Welfare** – Greece
78. Karolina Skowron, Director, **Fundacja Alberta Schweitzera** – Poland
79. Cezary Wyszynski, CEO, **Fundacja Międzynarodowy Ruch na Rzecz Zwierząt - Viva!** – Poland
80. Nineta Fix, President, **GAF Helps Greek Strays** – Greece
81. Ann Degreef, CEO, **GAIA** – Belgium
82. Tereza Plicka, Chairwoman, **Hlas zvířat** – Czechia
83. Petra Vojtíšková, Vice-Chair, **Home4Pets** – Czechia

84. Ruud Tombrock, Executive Director, **Humane Society International (Europe)** – Europe
85. Claire Bass, Executive Director, **Humane Society International (UK)** – United Kingdom
86. Silvia Barquero, Executive Director, **Igualdad Animal** – Spain
87. Gabriela Papadopova, Director, **Intimate With Nature Society (IWNS)** – Bulgaria
88. Roza Roussou, President, **Ippothesis** – Greece
89. Dr Andrew Kelly, Chief Executive Officer, **ISPCA** – Ireland
90. adw. Karolina Kuszlewicz, **Kancelaria Adwokacka w Warszawie** – Poland
91. Foteini Vasilatou, Treasurer, **KAZ – Rescue Center for Strays** – Greece
92. Jacek Bożek, President, **Klub Gaja** – Poland
93. Docteur Vétérinaire Richard Corde, Président, **La Ligue Française pour la Protection du Cheval** – France
94. Axel Lüssow, Spokesperson, **LAG Tierschutzpolitik Bündnis 90/Die Grünen Berlin** – Germany
95. Alexandra Moustaka, President, **Larissa's Stray Volunteers** – Greece
96. Stefano Ciafani, National President, **Legambiente** – Italy
97. Piera Rosati, President, **LNDC – Lega Nazionale per la Difesa del Cane** – Italy
98. Milena Simeoni, Vice-President, **LUMEN aps** – Italy
99. David Fender, Chairman, **Malcom Cat Protection Society** – Cyprus
100. Simone Forgé, Founder, **mensch fair tier** – Germany
101. Christina Ledermann, Chairman, **Menschen für Tierrechte - Bundesverband der Tierversuchsgegner e.V.** – Germany
102. Annette Bischoff, Managing Director, **Menschen für Tierrechte - Tierversuchsgegner Baden-Württemberg e.V.** – Germany
103. Eva Marlene Hodek, Director, **Nadace na ochranu zvířat/Animal Protection Trust** – Czechia
104. Kristina Mering, President, **Nähtamatud Loomad** – Estonia
105. Alžběta Kofránková, Statutory Representative, **NESEHNUTÍ** – Czechia
106. Victoria Nikolaou, President, **Nicosia Dog Shelter** – Cyprus
107. Marialena Kyriakakou, President, **Nine Lives Greece** – Greece
108. Dr. Veterinarian Jean-Pierre Kieffer, President, **OABA** – France
109. Marek Voršilka, Chairman, **OBRAZ - Animal Defenders Czechia** – Czechia
110. Prof. Dr. Klaus Buchner, Member of the European Parliament, **Ökologisch Demokratische Partei (ÖDP)** – Germany
111. Muriel Arnal, Founding President, **One Voice** – France
112. Don Hughes, President, **ONLY T.N.R.** – Cyprus
113. Paweł Rawicki, CEO, **Otwarte Klatki** – Poland
114. Irini Molfessi, Chair of the Board, **Pan-Hellenic Animal Welfare Federation** – Greece
115. Lena Giakoumopoulou, President, **Paros Cat** – Greece
116. Matthias Ebner, Federal Chairman, **PARTEI MENSCH UMWELT TIERSCHUTZ (Tierschutzpartei)** – Germany
117. Laura Duarte, President, **Partido Animalista – PACMA** – Spain
118. Cristiano Ceriello, President, **Partito Animalista** – Italy
119. Constantina Micha, President, **PAWS** – Cyprus

120. Argyro Eleutheriadou, President, **PAWS - Paros Animal Welfare Society** – Greece
121. Matthew Harris, Representative, **PAWS Dog Shelter Pafos** – Cyprus
122. Mimi Bekhechi, Director of International Programmes, **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)** – United Kingdom
123. Nikola Hurychová, Chairwoman, **Platforma pro udržitelný rozvoj a etiku** – Czechia
124. Robert Plicka, Lawyer and Founder, **Plicka & Partners** – Czechia
125. Professor Sievert Lorenzen, CEO, **PROVIEH e.V.** – Germany
126. Julia Laivienė, Representative, **Roberts Dog Sanctuary** – Cyprus
127. David Bowles, Assistant Director of Public Affairs, **RSPCA** – United Kingdom
128. Margarita Bafouni, Secretary, **Samos Animal Welfare Association** – Greece
129. Sébastien de Jonge, Director, **SANS COLLIER** – Belgium
130. Christina Kaloudi, President, **Santorini Animal Welfare Association – SAWA** – Greece
131. Nausika Korniliou, Treasurer, **SCARS** – Greece
132. Sabine Luppert, Chairman, **Schüler für Tiere e.V.** – Germany
133. Michalis Mappourides, Chairman, **Sirius Dog Sanctuary– Limassol** – Cyprus
134. Petr Dobrý, Chairman, **Slepice v nouzi/Hnutí DUHA Střední Čechy** – Czechia
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136. Yael Pantzer, Policy Officer, **Slow Food Europe** – Europe
137. Dr. Ursula Hudson, President, **Slow Food Germany** – Germany
138. Vasiliki Kati – Klosidi, President, **Society of Animal Friends of Amarousion** – Greece
139. Fotis Parastatidis, President, **Society of Animals Friends (HOPE)** – Greece
140. Mandy Ambandani, President, **Society of Friends of the Animals of Ermionis – F.A.S.E.** – Greece
141. Ioanna Mandrou, President, **SPAL – Association for the Protection of Strays of Lavrion** – Greece
142. Fofi Dimitriadou, President of the Board, **SPAZ** – Greece
143. Petra Sleven, Director, **Stichting VIER VOETERS** – the Netherlands
144. Isabella Botonaki, President, **Stray Animals Care "Love" Organization** – Greece
145. Myrsini Salamani, President, **Stray Paws of Pyrgos** – Greece
146. Eoin Dubskey, Campaign Manager, **SumOfUs** – International
147. Johan Beck-Friis, Secretary General, **Svenska Djurskyddsföreningen** – Sweden
148. Barbora Bartušková, Chairwoman, **Svoboda zvířat** – Czechia
149. Vasiliki Taki, President, **Syllogos Zoofilon Imathias ZOI** – Greece
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151. Fabio Cicone, Director, **Terra! Onlus** – Italy
152. Vicky Bond, Managing Director, **The Humane League UK** – United Kingdom
153. Katerina Leotsinidou, President, **The Voice of Animals – Animal Welfare Society of Astipalaia** – Greece
154. Eva Rönspieß, Vice-Chair, **Tierschutzverein für Berlin u. U. Corp. e.V.** – Germany
155. Zrinka Kosta, Executive President, **Udruga Pobjede** – Croatia

156. Harald Balluch, Managing Director, **VGT - Verein Gegen Tierfabriken** – Austria
157. Eva Rosenberg, Director, **Vier Pfoten – Stiftung für Tierschutz (Austria)** – Austria
158. Rüdiger Jürgensen, Director, **Vier Pfoten – Stiftung für Tierschutz (Germany)** – Germany
159. Lex Rigby, Campaigns Manager, **Viva!** – United Kingdom
160. Anne Hilhorst, Vice-President, **Wakker Dier** – the Netherlands
161. Sofia Tzoniki, President, **Welfare and Protection of Stray Animals - Stray.Gr** – Greece
162. Lorène Jacquet, Campaigns and advocacy officer, **WELFARM – Protection mondiale des animaux de ferme** – France
163. David Schwartz, Senior Campaigner, **WeMove Europe** – Europe
164. Steve McIvor, Chief Executive Officer, **World Animal Protection** – International
165. Marina Karageorgou, Administrator, **ZoFiPsy - The Philothei-Psychico Society for the Protection of Strays** – Greece
166. Maria Houstoulaki, President, **Zophoros** – Greece

