



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Crisis preparedness in food, animals and plants  
**The Director**

Brussels,  
SANTE G3/MK/nc(2023) 5305921

**Subject: 'Vote for Animals 2024' pledge**

Dear Petitioners,

President von der Leyen has asked me to thank you for your Email of 22 April 2024 presenting the 'Vote for Animals' pledge<sup>1</sup> calling for commitment to ten measures aimed at improving animal welfare in the European Union and inviting her to sign the pledge.

Animal welfare was and remains very high on the political agenda of the von der Leyen Commission.

In May 2020, the Commission adopted "[The Farm to Fork Strategy](#)" aiming, among other things, to ensure a higher level of animal welfare. Several actions have been launched by the Commission to contribute to achieve this goal. Under this strategy, the Commission also announced its intention to revise the EU animal welfare legislation with a view to align it with up-to-date scientific knowledge, to broaden its scope and to facilitate its implementation.

In this context, on 7 December 2024, the Commission adopted two legislative proposals: on [the protection of animals during transport](#) and [the welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability](#). Once adopted by the co-legislators, the new transport Regulation will improve the welfare of several million live animals which are yearly transported within and outside the EU for slaughter, fattening or breeding. The second legislative proposal, once adopted by co-legislators, will set, for the first time ever at EU level, minimum housing conditions and requirements to protect dogs and cats used for breeding and commercial purposes, and build a strong traceability system to deter fraudulent practices.

Furthermore, on that day, the Commission adopted its conclusions in [response to the European Citizens Initiative 'Fur Free Europe'](#). The Commission has asked EFSA for a scientific opinion on the welfare of fur animals. Based on it, by March 2026, the Commission will evaluate the economic and social consequences of different options, including the bans that the ECI 'Fur Free Europe' requests.

The Commission continues its work of revising the EU animal welfare acquis, with the objective to increase animal welfare standards. In this process, the Commission is examining a very wide range of the policy options.

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<sup>1</sup> Your e-mail refers to a "petition", which in the framework of EU Law is used for petitions addressed to the European Parliament pursuant to Article 227 TFEU. Your letter is dealt with by the Commission according to the rules for correspondence with citizens.

One of the key priorities of the Commission is to promote an enhanced dialogue on animal welfare issues relevant at EU level among competent authorities, businesses, civil society, and scientists. For this purpose, in 2017, the Commission adopted a Decision establishing the [EU Platform on Animal Welfare](#). During seven years of its functioning, the Platform became a pivotal forum for Member States and all relevant stakeholders to discuss Commission policy initiatives, including within the international context.

In addition, the Commission carries out other activities aimed at promoting animal welfare, for example through the [EU Reference Centres](#). It also continues to work on enforcement of existing legislation, notably via regular audits and controls.

I would like to thank you for your commitment for protecting animals.

Yours sincerely,

*[e-signed]*

Bernard Van Goethem