



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 22 June 2006

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AGRILEG 106

NOTE

From : Secretariat
To : Delegations

Subject : AGRIFISHERIES COUNCIL (Luxembourg, 19 June 2006)
- Presidency Conclusions on the Community Action Plan on the Protection
and Welfare of Animals 2006-2010

Delegations will find attached the Presidency Conclusions on the Community Action Plan on the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2006-2010

**Presidency Conclusions on the
Community Action Plan on the Protection and Welfare of
Animals 2006-2010
(Luxembourg, 19 June 2006)**

The Presidency:

1. welcomes the submission of the communication to facilitate the development over the coming years of a more coherent Community animal welfare policy, which needs to be consistent with the EC Treaty and integrated with other European policies such as the common agricultural policy, public health, the ongoing review of Community animal health policy, the revised Lisbon agenda etc.;
2. believes that Community rules serve as a baseline to ensure acceptable standards of animal welfare in the EU. These minimum standards, when found to be unsatisfactory, should be further developed over time, on the basis of ongoing scientific and technological progress;
3. takes the view that we should work towards the establishment of a network of European scientific institutes and laboratories with responsibility for and competence in animal welfare matters;
4. considers it absolutely necessary, for the protection of animals, to devise measures and provide means to ensure continuing information and training for those in charge of controls and for the owners, keepers and handlers of animals;
5. is convinced that it is important to ensure effective, uniform enforcement and monitoring of existing rules in all Member States;

6. considers it desirable to evaluate existing standards and the practical effects of their enforcement, taking advantage of the experience acquired by Member States. Such an evaluation should form part of any assessment;
7. considers it important, for the further development of Community animal protection law, to draft the necessary reports and proposals within the time referred to in existing Community legislation (animal transport, laying hens, slaughter and killing etc.). Rules on trade in cat and dog fur should be adopted as soon as possible;
8. stresses the need to set standards wherever this is considered to be the most appropriate response to animal welfare issues. The requisite impact assessment should consider socioeconomic implications, competition and geographical, environmental, climatic and production conditions within the Community;
9. stresses, with regard to the development of minimum welfare standards for species not yet covered by specific Community rules, that the decision whether there is a need to legislate must be based on the results of sound scientific studies which demonstrate necessity and feasibility and on the results of the impact assessment referred to in point 8;
10. advocates the development of tools enabling consumers to make a more informed choice. In doing so, high priority should be given to increased use of objective, measurable animal welfare indicators. In particular, a science-based classification of the animal welfare standards applied could serve as a basis here;
11. believes it necessary to invest in information policies and look into the potential benefits of labelling schemes indicating the animal welfare standards applied in the EU, in order to involve stakeholders and consumers more actively and inform them about the production and marketing of animal products, so as to increase their knowledge of existing Community animal welfare standards;

12. considers it advisable to consider possible options for a labelling scheme indicating the animal welfare standards applied in the EU, thus enabling European producers to capitalise on existing high EU animal welfare standards and ensuring uniform application of animal welfare requirements;
13. is convinced that the European Union should continue to actively promote animal welfare standards in international organisations such as the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) and the Council of Europe, as well as in bilateral negotiations and EU agreements with third countries;
14. believes that agreed multilateral animal welfare standards will facilitate the recognition of animal welfare worldwide and contribute to the creation of a level playing field. Protection of animals should also be better reflected in WTO rules.
