



DALLA PARTE
DEGLI ANIMALI

LAV Press Release – May 6th 2022

ITALY AT A TURNING POINT FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS AND HUMAN HEALTH. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS LAUNCHES NEW LAW ON EXOTIC AND WILD ANIMALS.

LAV: NO MORE BATS AND SNAKES IN HOUSES, STOP TO COLLECTORS AND SILLY FASHIONS, THEY ARE A DANGER FOR EVERYONE!

More protection for animals, more protection of human health, more prevention of epidemics and pandemics such as Covid, Sars, Mers, Nipah. This was decided by the Council of Ministers which yesterday approved three draft legislative decrees proposed by the Minister of Health Speranza, in application of the **European Regulation 429/2016 and the European Delegation Law 53/2019**.

*"It is a second important result of our **Campaign #ACasaLoro** to **stop the capture** in the wild and the **captive breeding** of exotic, wild and hybrid animals. In fact, to protect everyone, it will finally be possible to prevent new entrances, for the detention of these animals in the homes of Italians, including even a kind of bat, the 'fruit bat' that has hitherto been freely marketable - said Gianluca Felicetti, president of LAV. – We will read the Government's text as soon as it is published, but as expected it will represent (also in application of the recent integration of the Constitution on the defense of animal rights and biodiversity, and the recent stop to the breeding of animals for the production of furs), a new victory against an anachronistic trade that is dangerous for all. The new law will also represent a long-term positive information and educational campaign, which will gradually discourage animal collectors and stop dangerous fashions that have led, according to Euromonitor, to a population of over 50 million mammals, amphibians, birds, fish and reptiles of all kinds kept in rooms, garages and gardens, with a rate of 3 million new animals a year kept, and which create the problem of the so-called invasive alien species."*

Italy is the fifth European country after Holland, Cyprus, Luxembourg and Belgium to intervene in this sector, thanks to an amendment approved last year by the Parliament - signed, among others, by senators De Petris (LeU), Giammanco and Stabile (Fi), Unterberger (Svp), Cirinnà (Pd), Masini (Action), Giannuzzi (Cal), Nugnes (Mixed) - which has resisted in recent months to

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instrumental attempts intended to weaken or cancel it. The Legislative Decree scheme should also have intervened with effective sanctions against those who violate the import, sale and reproduction bans, as well as against the trafficking of protected species in danger of extinction.

"We have defeated, in this decisive round, those who, by envisaging abandonment of animals or even takeover of hamsters and canaries by the State, did everything to avoid bringing out any new rules, not even regulatory ones, on species such as snakes, big cats, poisonous scorpions and spiders that are everything but certainly not pets - declares Andrea Casini, LAV head of Campaigns on wild animals – Too much time has passed, hopefully not in vain, from the images in the Chinese wet market newscasts, from the repeated interviews with the essayist David Quammen for his prophetic book 'Spillover' with the leap of virus species, from the idea that to avoid deaths and lockdowns it is better to stop animal markets and the destruction of their habitats".

The measures adopted by the Council of Ministers should also have intervened in application of other criteria: the establishment of a national register in which animals and keepers must be registered and the obligation to keep them in compliance with their ethological characteristics, training of operators, restrictions on the sale of pets, the ban on itinerant activities and fairs, more effective rules against the trafficking of puppies, verification of the destination of unsold animals.

LAV will keep working and propose further improvements to the Legislative Decrees. In the coming weeks, the drafts will be examined by the parliamentary commissions and by the Regions before returning to the Council of Ministers and becoming law.

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