

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**<sup>1</sup> – 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.endthecageage.eu) or refer to the report<sup>2</sup> 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

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<sup>2</sup> 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. Irimi 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 Argypolis** – 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 Hamелеers, 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. Dr. Martina Stephany, Director Farm Animals and Nutrition, **FOUR PAWS** – International
71. Pierre Sultana, Director, **FOUR PAWS - European Policy Office** – Europe
72. Marina Ivanova, Director, **FOUR PAWS Bulgaria** – Bulgaria
73. Brian da Cal, Director UK, **FOUR PAWS UK** – United Kingdom
74. Cristina Cojoclea, Director, **Freedom and Respect for Every Earthling – F.R.E.E.** – Romania
75. Sofia Leontiadou, President, **Frontizo Animal Welfare** – Greece
76. Karolina Skowron, Director, **Fundacja Alberta Schweitzera** – Poland
77. Cezary Wyszynski, CEO, **Fundacja Międzynarodowy Ruch na Rzecz Zwierząt - Viva!** – Poland
78. Nineta Fix, President, **GAF Helps Greek Strays** – Greece
79. Ann Degreef, Director, **GAIA** – Belgium
80. Tereza Plicka, Chairwoman, **Hlas zvířat** – Czechia
81. Petra Vojtíšková, Vice-Chair, **Home4Pets** – Czechia
82. Ruud Tombrock, Executive Director, **Humane Society International (Europe)** – Europe

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

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

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

