



RESOLUTION ON ANIMAL RIGHTS

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During the fight against cruelty and injustice in our society, it is also necessary to defend animals, those who have no voice and choice. Animals are part of our planet and an integral part of our life. They directly depend on our society's priorities. Humane treatment of animals also should be one of Social Democrats' tasks. Brutal treatment of animals is unacceptable and our task is to fight for the protection of animal rights.

Norms of keeping animals

Scientific studies have shown that not only people, but also animals are able to feel fear, stress, pain, joy, sadness, boredom and other emotions. It should not be ignored. However, every day, millions of animals are suffering and killed without valid reasons.

The living conditions of animals that are used in agriculture, in industry, in entertainment, in sports, in training and experiments, as well as those that are kept as pets and stray animals should not be one of suffering. We must strive to improve the quality of their lives and listen to the opinions of veterinarians and other experts (investigators, zoologists, biologists, etc).

YES recommends that all forms of cruelty against animals are eliminated for entertainment purposes and to seek for better and more dignified solutions for animal farming.

Battery egg production

Battery egg production is a cruel method of producing eggs. Throughout EU countries, conditions for keeping hens are often violated. Dozens of hens are living in one cage, completely limited in their movement ability, what prevents hens from almost every of their natural behaviour. This method of egg production should be changed or replaced by pasture method.

Stop long distance live animal transportation

Norms of animal transportation (European Convention, 1968) are violated on a daily basis, what leads to exhaustion and death of animals. Long distance transport causes enormous suffering: overcrowding, exhaustion and dehydration (suffering extreme temperatures), pain and stress, immune systems become damaged and diseases can be caught more easily.

Our goal is to minimize the suffering of animals during transportation. Animals are shipped alive to be slaughtered at journey's end. Because of it, farm animals should be reared and slaughtered as close as possible to the farm where they were born. There should be stronger regulations about journey length, rest times, stocking densities and age limit at which animals can be transported over long distances. These regulations must determine that animals can be shipped for no longer than 8 hours (the European Commission has already determined) to slaughter or for further fattening.

Another animal transportation issue is about animal exportation from the EU. Over three million animals are exported from the European Union to non-EU countries every year. The journeys can last hundreds of hours and they face brutal treatment on arrival. When European animals are



exported outside the EU, they lose EU legal protection. There should be a regulation, which will improve the control over trucks with animals that are leaving the EU. Animals should be transported in suitable means of transport, ensuring healthy conditions. Also live animals' transportation can be replaced with trade in meat.

Population control methods

Stray dogs and cats are the common issue in Europe, but in some countries, this became more relevant (in Albania, Armenia, Moldova and Serbia the number of stray dog has increased). Some countries (especially Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan Republic, Moldova and Ukraine) are using such inhumane methods of controlling the population of stray animals as shooting stray dogs, slaughtering to death or even burying dogs alive by municipal hired contractors. Such methods are unacceptable. There should be regulations, which will determine only humane methods of population control.

Stop using animals in circuses

The use of animals as objects of entertainment is barbarous attitude to the cultural values that we are carrying together in the 21st century. It is not only about the use of animals in circus performances, but also about bullfights, where animals are killed in the end of the show in public.

There are such risks in circuses as: keeping animals in unsuitable conditions, premature decoupling from the mother, limited social interaction, transportation, animal training and stress during the show. Animal training involves physical dominance and such methods are often brutal and painful for animals. FVE (Federation of Veterinarians of Europe) declared that wild mammals can't get proper life conditions in travelling circuses (especially in terms of housing) and are not able to express their normal behaviours. FVE recommends all European authorities to prohibit the use of wild mammals in travelling circuses across Europe.

Some European countries already banned the use of animals (all kinds of animals/ wild mammals/ some specific species) in circuses. Other European countries should take into account the opinion of experts and follow this example. Using animals in circuses should be stopped, because there is no means of possibility that their physiological and requirements can adequately be met.

Stop canned hunting

Canned hunting involves purposely breeding animals (mostly pheasants, partridges' wild boar, deer and mallard ducks), which are shot by hobby hunters in special reservations. Killed animals are not used for food, but only for the process of hunting. Animals that are bred in these reservations are done so with only one goal to become a target for one-time entertainment. This cruel tradition must be stopped.

By defending the rights of animals, society achieves their highest level of humanity. Humane societies must protect the rights of those who do not have the right to vote and who can be affected by human behaviour. European society should increase its responsibility for using and keeping animals and use general punishment for animal rights abuse as a control instrument.