



# PRESS RELEASE

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## MEPs gather to discuss animal welfare Caroline Lucas appointed President of Intergroup

A select group of Members of the European Parliament gathered today for the new launch of the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals. The purpose of today's meeting was to discuss actions to improve animal welfare in the European Union through their new mandate as representatives of the people of Europe.

Set up in 1983 as one of the Parliament's very first cross party groups, the Intergroup on the Welfare & Conservation of Animals is also one of the longest running parliamentary fora, providing support for MEPs' continuous efforts to enhance animal welfare in Europe. The Intergroup's success is illustrated by an impressive list of animal welfare issues tackled by the European Parliament as a direct result of the activities of the Intergroup. The list includes its efforts to stop the clubbing of baby seals, improve conditions for the long-distance transport of live animals and the confinement of calves in stalls.

The Intergroup has formally appointed a new President and Vice Presidents. British Green MEP Caroline Lucas has been selected to head the new Intergroup as President during the first half of this parliamentary term. Commenting on her appointment, Mrs Lucas said: *"I'm honoured to have been nominated as President of the Animal Welfare Intergroup. The Intergroup is well known as being one of the most effective, high profile cross-party groups in the European Parliament, and I am committed to doing everything possible to build on that well-earned reputation. With key challenges ahead, like the revision of the directive 86/609 on the protection of animals used for experiments, it's more vital than ever that the Animal Welfare Intergroup continues to champion animal protection across the EU."*

Today's meeting included a debate with Isabelle Veissier from INRA (*Institut National pour la Recherche Agronomique*, France) about the *WelfareQuality*© Project, a research initiative funded by the European Commission to provide a scientifically-based scoring system for animal welfare standards.

In the coming months, the Intergroup will continue its work as catalyst for action by raising topics such as the protection of animals used in research, the cloning of animals for food supply and live animal transport.

Its work and constant monitoring of animal welfare issues in Europe can be followed through its official website: [www.animalwelfareintergroup.eu](http://www.animalwelfareintergroup.eu)

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NOTES:

The Intergroup meets once a month during the plenary session in Strasbourg. Its Secretariat is provided by Eurogroup for Animals. Intergroup meetings are open to the public and are widely attended by Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), European Commission officials, industry and NGOs.