

ITALY and the phase out of animals from circuses. The rise of contemporary circus shows.

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ITALY and the outdated 1968 national Law. Time for a cultural and scientific based Change.

- ▶ Italy relies on a 1968 Law allowing the use of animals in circuses shows without any species and quantity restrictions. No compulsory standards for the keeping of animals applies.
- ▶ Amount of animals unknown by the authorities: no official registry applies. Estimated at more than 2000 animals kept by 100 circuses (2010)
- ▶ Which animals: about 50 elephants, 250 big cats (tigers, lions), several hyppos, penguins, birds, camels, reptiles horses, other species. Hundreds of animals classified as ‘dangerous’ to public safety.
- ▶ JUSTICE –Mistreatment and keeping against ethological needs (Italian laws based on criminal code) have applied to dozens of cases.



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Towards a 21st century society, the 2016 Governmental legislative proposal to phase out animals in circuses.

- ▶ In 2016 the Minister of Culture (Mr. Franceschini) proposed a wide reform of the Live Entertainment Sector including the '*phase of animals in circuses*'
- ▶ The Legislative Proposal is now discussed at the IT Parliament and is expected to be adopted by end 2017. It follows the example of more than half of EU countries and more than 50 States in the World, including South America.
- ▶ Circuses with animals are in a severe financial crisis VS the raising of *contemporary circuses* (no animals) which at present sell tickets for millions of euros per year in Northern Italy.
- ▶ The keeping of the animals has been identified by 2017 CENSIS report as one of the most important barrier to both change and future economic development of workers in circuses with animals.



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Towards a 21st century society. *'Animals are sentient beings'* and should not be used for entertainment in circuses.

- ▶ On 15th March 2017 in the Italian Senate, the FNOVI (Italian National Federation of Veterinarians' Chambers) publicly provided support for a ban of animals in circuses also following the 2015 Position of FVE.
- ▶ Prof. Stephen Harris (Univ. Bristol, UK) newly released report concludes that from a scientific standpoint a life in circuses is not worth living for an animal; it does meet the basic ethological requirements of species (habitat, health, welfare, behaviour, social). It is spent in cages, transport and unnatural behaviours (shows).



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VIDEO

Thank your for your attention



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