



RULES OF PROCEDURE

INTRODUCTION

According to Article 34 of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure,
"Individual Members may form Intergroups or other unofficial groupings of Members, to hold informal exchanges of views on specific issues across different political groups, drawing on members of different parliamentary committees, and to promote contact between Members and civil society."

In this optic, the Intergroup of the Welfare and Conservation of Animals (IWCA) has been established and will be governed by the following rules of procedure, adopted by all Intergroup Members who are present at a meeting convened for this purpose.

1. DEFINITION

- 1.1. The Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals (IWCA) is a European Parliament cross party forum of debate and action on issues related to animal welfare and to the conservation of animal species. It is not an official body of the European Parliament.
- 1.2. The Intergroup provides the background information and updates on current animal related issues allowing to propose and agree on initiatives that can contribute to improvements or concrete changes.
- 1.3. The IWCA comes together once a month. For the monthly meetings, experts, stakeholders, rapporteurs and representatives of the European Commission and Member States are invited to exchange views on animal related issues. According to the outcome of the discussions, follow-up actions are agreed upon, which are then coordinated by the Bureau of the Intergroup.

2. ORGANISATION

- 2.1. The following entities will participate in the Intergroup
 - The Bureau
 - The Secretariat
 - The Members
 - The Attendees

3. THE BUREAU

- 3.1. The Bureau gives strategic input to the Intergroup and approves initiatives.
- 3.2. The Bureau meets with the Secretariat at least twice a year to discuss the planning of Intergroup activities for a fixed time period.

3.3. The Bureau of the Intergroup will comprise:

- A President,
- An Honorary President
- An Honorary Secretary
- 14 (or more) Vice Presidents

3.3.1. The President

The President is the main representative of the Intergroup. S(he) chairs its sessions and events, spearheads its initiatives and signs its correspondence. S(he) is appointed or elected every two and a half years.

If possible, the presidency function will rotate between the political groups and nationalities at every election or appointment.

3.3.2. The Honorary President and the Honorary Secretary :

The Honorary President and the Honorary Secretary of the Intergroup are MEPs who have either been a former President of the Intergroup or who have been particularly active in promoting the Intergroup during several legislative terms. These functions are awarded for outstanding merits.

3.3.3. The Vice Presidents

The 14 (or more) Vice Presidents are MEPs who are particularly committed to promote the animal welfare and conservation cause and related EU policy. Ideally, all political groups and the greatest possible number of nationalities should be represented among the Vice Presidents to reflect the cross party nature of the Intergroup. The main selection criterion is a strong commitment for animal welfare and species conservation.

In absence of the President, one of their numbers shall, upon request, assume the chairmanship of Intergroup meetings and/or other events.

3.4. Rights and Duties of Bureau members

3.4.1. The Bureau members can:

- a) Give a direct input into the shaping and running of Intergroup's activities,
- b) Propose issues of debate for the monthly Intergroup meetings, taking into account the Intergroup's priority list of issues (See Annex II),
- c) Select candidates for the election of the President and the appointment of the Vice Presidents.

3.4.2. The Bureau members have to :

- a) Be responsible for the delivery and implementation of the Intergroup's strategy (see Annex II),
- b) Commit to furthering animal welfare objectives,
- c) Participate proactively at monthly Intergroup meetings and at various Intergroup initiatives like the topical working groups (see point 9),
- d) Provide organisational support to the Secretariat.

4. THE SECRETARIAT

4.1. The Secretariat is responsible for administrative, organisational and advisory tasks. These comprise:

- The organisation of the monthly Intergroup meetings in Strasbourg or of any other events,
- The invitation of guest speakers for Intergroup meetings or for other events,
- The setting of the Intergroup meeting agenda in accordance with the rules (see point 8)
- The coordination of follow-up actions agreed during Intergroup meetings,
- Assistance to the President with correspondence and any additional specific requests,
- Preparation and distribution of Intergroup meeting agendas,
- The regular update of the Intergroup website.

5. INTERGROUP MEMBERS

5.1. MEPs who want to join the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals must be willing to actively support and promote animal welfare and conservation issues. With exception of the one month long nomination period before the election of the President of the Intergroup MEPs can join upon official registration at any time of a legislative term.

5.2. Members of the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals are registered on an official list available on the European Parliament's website
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/pdf/intergroupes/VIII_LEG_25_Welfare%20and%20conservation%20of%20animals.pdf

When registering, MEPs have to declare that they have noted the rules governing the establishment of Intergroups which were adopted in the Decision of the Conference of Presidents of 16 December 1999

(http://www.europarl.europa.eu/pdf/intergroupes/legislature_8/DecisionofCoPof16Dec1999-Rules_governing_the_establishment_of_intergroupes.pdf) and undertake to abide by them.

5.3. It is expected from all Intergroup Members to follow the monthly meetings as often as possible.

6. INTERGROUP ATTENDEES

6.1. MEPs who have participated in at least one Intergroup session during a legislative term become automatically Intergroup attendees.

They will be included in a mailing list to get all relevant information about activities and initiatives of the Intergroup.

7. ELECTION OF THE BUREAU MEMBERS

7.1. Election of the President

7.1.1. Profile of the President

The candidate for President will:

- Have demonstrable commitment to animal welfare and conservation,
- Endorse the Intergroup strategy,
- Be available to chair the monthly Intergroup meetings of c. 60 - 90 minutes during the plenary week in Strasbourg.

7.1.2. Term of Office

The Presidential term should correspond to the Parliamentary half term of approximately two and a half years. Should a vacancy occur before the expiry of this term, a Bureau Member nominated by the Intergroup Bureau shall serve for the remaining period of the predecessor's term.

7.1.3. Nomination of Candidates for President at the beginning of a Parliamentary term

At the beginning of a Parliamentary term, the nomination of candidates for President and for other Bureau Member posts shall be decided by the re-elected Members of the Intergroup in consultation of the new Members.

A call for nominations can start as soon as the new Intergroup has convened. The one month long nomination period will end five days before the election.

7.1.4. Nomination of Candidates at half term of a Parliamentary legislative period

Bureau Members will nominate the candidates for President. The nomination process will start one month before the elections and will close five days before the election.

Nominees will be Members of the Bureau or Members of the Intergroup who have participated at least five times in Intergroup meetings during an EP half term period.

Nominees have to be proposed by at least one Member of the Bureau in order to be placed on the candidate list.

7.1.5. Election of the President

Should there be only one nominated candidate for President, then s(he) will be appointed by acclamation during one of the first Intergroup sessions of a term and shall remain in office for two and a half years.

If several candidates for President are nominated, an election by secret ballot will be held. The election of the President shall take place during an Intergroup meeting after conclusion of the one month long nomination process, which ends five days before the election.

All registered Intergroup Members have the right to vote.

The most senior MEP in the room shall chair the election process until a President has been elected.

If after three ballots no candidate has obtained an absolute majority of the votes cast, the fourth ballot shall be confined to the two Members who have obtained the highest number of votes in the third ballot. In the event of a tie the election should be postponed to a next session allowing the two candidates to campaign for their election.

On election of the President, the Senior Member shall vacate the Chair.

In case the election falls during an EP half term period, only Intergroup Members, who have participated at least five times in Intergroup meetings during the previous EP half term period shall elect the President by secret ballot.

7.1.6. Proxy voting

Registered Intergroup Members who cannot attend the election meeting may delegate in writing their voting power to other registered Intergroup Members of the same Political Group to vote in their absence.

7.2. Appointment of the Vice Presidents

7.2.1. Profile

The Vice Presidents should

- Demonstrable commitment to animal welfare,
- Endorse the Intergroup strategy,
- Attend the monthly Intergroup meetings at least four times a year,
- Be available to participate proactively in Intergroup activities.

7.2.2. Term of office

The Vice Presidential term of office shall last for an entire legislative period of the Parliament.

Vice Presidents who do not regularly attend (at least four meetings a year) and who lack active involvement in Intergroup's initiatives can lose Vice President status, following a majority decision of the Board.

7.2.3. Nomination and appointment

Vice Presidents can be nominated by the registered Intergroup Members.

The registered Intergroup Members will appoint the new Vice Presidents by acclamation during one of the monthly Intergroup sessions.

8. PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSION ISSUES FOR THE MONTHLY SESSIONS AND OTHER EVENTS

8.1. On the basis of the Intergroup strategy (Annex II), a preliminary issues plan drawn up for a whole year is presented for approval to the members by the Bureau.

Proposals for the presentation and debate of specific topics at Intergroup meetings have to be formulated in writing to the President with copy to the secretariat.

Topics which cannot be presented and discussed in detail will be shortly mentioned in the Chair's introductory remarks at the beginning of Intergroup meetings. They can also be presented on the Intergroup website.

The President holds the right to decide upon changes of the Intergroup issues plan.

8.2. Selection criteria

8.2.1. General

Issues that are debated at Intergroup meetings should refer to the strategy and priority list of issues included in the Intergroup's strategy for the term, which can be provide by the secretariat upon request.

Debated issues should mainly refer to areas of EU competence allowing concrete action. Over the year, the agenda needs to cover animal welfare issues relating to farm animals, wildlife, animals used in research and companion animals.

8.2.2. Specific

The issues need to relate to:

- A topic which is under discussion and which will be voted in the European Parliament;
- Updates on the procedural or legislative development;
- An issue which is proposed by the Commission or is in preparation,
- An issue which is the subject of a campaign to achieve EU legislation,
- A topic which can have a significant international impact, global trends which impact animal welfare (loss of biodiversity, globalisation,...),
- A topic of a motion for a resolution or a written declaration which is actively promoted and sponsored by the Intergroup.
- New scientific evidence or research results,
- Reports of EU Agencies or international Institutions such as (FVO, EEA, WHO, OIE, Council of Europe, FAO).

8.2.3. The following topics are to be excluded

- Presentations of organisations (industry, NGOs, ...) without a primary focus on a specific issue of relevance for EU policy making,
- Very specific regional problems, unless Intergroup involvement can help to introduce concrete changes,
- Debates that can contribute to give acknowledgement or any form of consent to issues that are highly controversial from an animal welfare aspect.

9. TOPICAL WORKING GROUPS

9.1. Topical working groups are set up to book progress on a specific policy issue related to animal protection. The working groups have a clear goal to reach in line with the Intergroup's strategy for the term and are a focal point of debate to discuss and decide on actions to be taken.

9.2. Each working group is presided by a Chair chosen amongst the Members of the Intergroup and by registered Members from different political groups. A project leader, who is an expert in the field and who is chosen by the secretariat, is in charge of running the working group and provides the necessary input allowing a constructive discussion.

9.3. The working groups are of temporary nature and can be dissolved once its objectives are reached. The frequency of the meetings is adapted to the needs.

ANNEX I – GENERAL EP RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR INTERGROUPS

A. Rule 34 of the EP's rules of procedure applying to Intergroups

1. Individual Members may form Intergroups or other unofficial groupings of Members, to hold informal exchanges of views on specific issues across different political groups, drawing on members of different parliamentary committees, and to promote contact between Members and civil society.
2. Such groupings may not engage in any activities which might result in confusion with the official activities of Parliament or of its bodies. Provided that the conditions laid down in the rules governing their establishment adopted by the Bureau are met, political groups may facilitate their activities by providing them with logistical support.

Such groupings shall be required to declare any support, whether in cash or in kind (e.g. secretarial assistance), which if offered to Members as individuals would have to be declared under Annex I.

The Quaestors shall keep a register of the declarations referred to in the second subparagraph. That register shall be published on the Parliament's website. The Quaestors shall adopt detailed rules on those declarations.

B. EP rules governing the establishment of Intergroups

Decision of the Conference of Presidents of 16 December 1999 (Consolidated on 3 May 2004 and amended by the Conference of Presidents on 14 February 2008 and on 12 April 2012)

Article 1

Intergroups are not organs of Parliament and may not, therefore, express the opinion thereof.

Article 2

Intergroups may use neither the name nor the logo of the European Parliament, nor of the political groups they are composed of, nor any name which might lead to confusion with the official bodies of the European Parliament such as parliamentary committees, interparliamentary delegations and joint parliamentary committees. Any intergroup which does so, notwithstanding this provision, shall not be entitled to use Parliament's technical facilities.

Article 3

Intergroups may not undertake any activities which might result in confusion with the official activities of Parliament or of its bodies or which are likely to have an adverse effect on relations with the other Institutions of the Union or relations with non-member countries.

Article 4

The establishment of intergroups shall be subject to the following conditions:

- applications must be submitted by Members for signature by at least three political groups. The political groups shall be allocated a limited number of signatures for any given parliamentary

term, as indicated in the attached allocation scheme (Annex 1), which shall be revised at the beginning of each new parliamentary term,

- to be admissible, applications must be accompanied by the appropriate form (Annex II) and a declaration of financial interests (Annex III), in accordance with Article 2 of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure,
- applications must be accompanied by a list of the members of the intergroup.

Article 5

Once established, intergroups must notify their names to the political group responsible for the coordination of the intergroups, and a declaration must be made to the Quaestors, accompanied by the documents referred to in Article 4. Any change must be notified to that political group at the earliest opportunity. The political group responsible for the coordination of the intergroups shall ensure that all the group chairs, the secretaries-general of the political groups and Parliament's Administration are duly informed thereof.

Article 6

The declaration of financial interests, which shall be drawn up under the personal responsibility of the intergroup chairs, shall be made annually. The officers of the intergroups shall be required to declare all direct or indirect financial support which, if offered to members as individuals, would have to be declared pursuant to Article 2 of Annex I to Parliament's Rules of Procedure.

Article 7

The Quaestors shall keep a register of the declarations of financial interests submitted by the intergroup chairs. That register shall be open to the public for inspection.

Article 8

Before entering a declaration in the register of the financial interests of the intergroups, the Quaestors may request any additional information which they require in order to establish each intergroup's objectives clearly and accurately and to guarantee transparency in the running of the intergroups.

Article 9

Technical facilities, conference rooms and interpretation shall be made available by the political groups only subject to the following conditions:

- intergroups may meet only during part-sessions in Strasbourg, at the times laid down in Annex III to the rules governing meetings of the political groups.
- intergroups must comply with the same timetabling restrictions as apply to meetings of the official bodies of Parliament. In particular, they may not under any circumstances meet at voting time during plenary sittings of the European Parliament.

Article 10

At the beginning of each parliamentary term, the intergroups shall be required to resubmit their applications for establishment under the terms laid down in these rules.

Annexes to the Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Annex I : Number of signatures available to the political groups for the establishment of intergroups during the eighth parliamentary term (2014-2019) (Decision of the Conference of presidents of 11 September 2014):

EPP	S&D	ECR	ALDE	GUE/ NGL	Greens/EFA	EFDD
22	22	9	9	7	7	7

The signatures allocation scheme is determined at the beginning of each parliamentary term in accordance with an agreement concluded between the political groups.

Annex II : Form for the establishment of an intergroup

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/pdf/intergroupes/legislature_8/DecisionofCoPof16Dec1999-Rules_governing_the_establishment_of_intergroupes.pdf

Annex III : Form for the Declaration of financial interest in connection with the political activities of groupings of Members

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/pdf/intergroupes/legislature_8/DecisionofCoPof16Dec1999-Rules_governing_the_establishment_of_intergroupes.pdf

ANNEX II – INTERGROUP STRATEGY FOR 2014-2019

I. Introduction

This paper outlines a strategy for the running of the European Parliament Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals during the 8th term of the European Parliament 2014-2019.

It defines the mission and the guiding principles of parliamentary Intergroups and explains their role within the work of the EP.

After highlighting the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats it draws strategic objectives for the short and the longer term.

II. The role of Intergroups in the European Parliament

Intergroups of the European Parliament are cross-party groups which are forums for informal exchanges on particular policy issues and aim to promote a more direct contact between Members and civil society.

Even though Intergroups are not Parliament bodies and therefore may not express the Parliament's official opinion they can play an important role in allowing in depth discussions on specific issues and in finding cross party alliances for the promotion of a policy issue.

As such they can play an indirect but sometimes pivotal role for the shaping of policy positions in the Parliamentary committees and in plenary.

28 Intergroups were officially registered during the 8th term of the European Parliament (2014-2019):

Active ageing, intergenerational solidarity & family policies	List of members Declaration of financial interests
Anti-racism and diversity	List of members Declaration of financial interests
Biodiversity, countryside, hunting and recreational fisheries	List of members Declaration of financial interests
Children's rights	List of members Declaration of financial interests
Climate change, sustainable development and biodiversity	List of members Declaration of financial interests
Common goods and public services	List of members Declaration of financial interests

Creative industries	List of members Declaration of financial interests
Digital agenda	List of members Declaration of financial interests
Disability	List of members Declaration of financial interests
Extreme poverty and human rights	List of members Declaration of financial interests
European tourism development, cultural heritage, Way of St. James and other European cultural routes	List of members Declaration of financial interests
Freedom of religion and belief and religious tolerance	List of members Declaration of financial interests
Integrity - Transparency, anti- corruption and organised crime	List of members Declaration of financial interests
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex rights - LGBTI	List of members Declaration of financial interests
Long-term investment and re industrialisation	List of members Declaration of financial interests
Rural, mountainous and remote areas	List of members Declaration of financial interests
Seas, rivers, islands and coastal areas	List of members Declaration of financial interests
SMEs - Small and medium-sized enterprises	List of members Declaration of financial interests
Sky and Space	List of members Declaration of financial interests
Social economy, social economy enterprises, social entrepreneurship and third sector	List of members Declaration of financial interests
Sports	List of members Declaration of financial interests
Trade Unions	List of members Declaration of financial interests
Traditional minorities, National communities and Languages	List of members Declaration of financial interests
Urban	List of members Declaration of financial interests
Welfare and conservation of animals	List of members Declaration of financial interests
Western Sahara	List of members Declaration of financial interests
Wine, spirits and quality foodstuffs	List of members Declaration of financial interests
Youth Issues	List of members Declaration of financial interests

III. The Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals

Vision statement

Provide a collaborative cross-party forum in the EP to jointly improve the welfare and conservation of animals through EU legislation, better enforcement and dissemination of knowledge and best practises.

A SWOT analysis

1. The strengths

The *Animal Welfare Intergroup* is one of the first-established and longest running in the European Parliament and is generally recognized as one of the most popular but also the most effective ones, which has had a concrete impact on the shaping of animal welfare related policy making during the last three decades of its existence.

The key strength of the Intergroup is the strong personal commitment and motivation of its Members who actively work for the promotion of animal welfare initiatives in the Parliament. For the

majority of the time, the Intergroup was headed by European Parliament Committee chairpersons who were able to mobilize and to join forces across party levels. It was beneficial that several of them had influential positions in relevant committees or in the House.

Other strengths of the Intergroup are its continuity, the regularity of its meetings, the high attendance rate and a relatively good visibility which has raised it to a form of institution in the European Parliament.

A coherent, topical and varied choice of issues of debate has contributed to attracting a larger number of MEPs. During the last term about 80 MEPs from all political groups and the majority of Member States have at least once attended an Intergroup meeting.

Most importantly, the coordinating role and expertise provided by Eurogroup for Animals have contributed to the success of the Intergroup. The involvement of Eurogroup for Animals is a good means of enhancing the direct participation of civil society in the parliamentary debate and policy formulation.

2. The weaknesses

Even though the Intergroup can proud itself with major successes it has to be recognised that several of its initiatives haven't reached their expected outcome. As an unofficial body of the European Parliament it lacks authority. This is especially the case if calls for action by the Intergroup are directed towards the EU Member States or third countries. Related correspondence by the Intergroup remains often unanswered. It is likely that this will not change in the future.

A lack of consistency to follow-up dossiers from the beginning to the end is another weakness. Large panoply of issues is just debated without further efforts of concrete action.

As far as concerns the effective use of communication tools there still remains much room for improvement especially concerning the Intergroup website and the presence in the social media. This is of direct responsibility of the Intergroup secretariat and thus it is easier to achieve tangible improvements.

3. The opportunities

The beginning of this new term provides the opportunity to create a new network of Intergroup Members and to find new alliances. It will be essential to recognize and grasp all opportunities at the right time and to use them for the benefit of the Intergroup. The new political balance within the European Parliament may allow for a broader membership from centrist Political Parties, EPP, ALDE and S&D, as an alliance among them is likely to be easier to forge, particularly on issues pertaining to animal welfare and conservation, now that there is a stronger presence of Eurosceptic and extreme parties in the EP. Another opportunity could be to host a wider array of events on a more regular basis under the auspices of the Intergroup, in close collaboration with several MEP offices and possibly scientists and Commission officials, in the European Parliament, such as screenings, conferences, debates and exhibitions, apart from the regular Intergroup meetings during the Plenary Sessions.

4. The threats

The main threat for the Intergroup is the disinterest and a lack of drive from its own Members. The Intergroup can only function well if there is enough motivation and willingness from the side of its Members to become active and to join forces.

Animal welfare is generally considered as one of the last priorities in policy making and this attitude risks to block or at least to slow down positive developments in this area.

IV. The strategic objectives

1. The short term goals

A. Set up a new Bureau of the Intergroup

- B. Official registration of the Animal Welfare Intergroup
- C. Rebuild a network of official Intergroup Members

A. Set up a new Bureau of the Intergroup

On 17th July 2014, the re-elected Board Members held a first bureau meeting to discuss among other issues the nomination of candidates for the new bureau and in particular the election of the new President. The candidates for the post were Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP, FI) and Janusz Wojciechowski (ECR, PL).

During the constituent meeting of the Intergroup on 18th September 2014, Janusz Wojciechowski was elected as the new President of the Intergroup.

List of Board Members on 18th September 2014:

President:	Janusz Wojciechowski	(ECR, PL)
Honorary Presidents:	Marit Paulsen, Pavel Poc	ALDE, SE S&D, CZ
Honorary Secretary:	David Martin	S&D, UK
Vice-Presidents	Stefan Eck Fredrick Federley Jacqueline Foster Anja Hazekamp Esther de Lange Jörg Leichtfried Marlene Mizzi Sirpa Pietikäinen Keith Taylor	GUE/NGL, DE ALDE, SE ECR, UK GUE/NGL, NL EPP, NL S&D, AT S&D, MT EPP, FI Greens/EFA, UK

B. Official registration of the Animal Welfare Intergroup

It will be necessary to ensure the official registration of the Intergroup. This requires the support of at least three political groups. We hope that the Greens will reconfirm their support given the fact that they are the only Group which has included animal welfare concerns in their manifesto for the new term. It is likely that also the GUE/NGL and the ECR Group will support the Intergroup. Further efforts are still needed to get official support from the EPP and the S&D Group.

The list of official Intergroups of the European Parliament is expected to be published in at the end of December.

C. Rebuild a network of official Intergroup Members

As part of the official registration process the secretariat of the Intergroup but also the Board Members have the task to find new Members of the Intergroup. The composition of the Intergroup should ideally reflect its cross party nature and include MEPs from possibly all Member States. This will require numerous meetings and effective promotion activities. An invitation to join the Intergroup has been sent to all Members of Parliament. MEPs can become Members of the Intergroup throughout the whole term.

2. The long term goals

The long term goals are best reflected in the Intergroup's vision statement which says that the Intergroup should provide a cross-party, collaborative forum in the EP to jointly improve the welfare

and conservation of animals through EU legislation, push for better enforcement and dissemination of knowledge and best practises.

It must be ensured that the Animal Welfare Intergroup remains the focal point of discussion and a catalyser for action on animal welfare and conservation issues in the EP.

To increase the impact of the Intergroup it is important to develop a framework of concrete strategic goals for the legislative term. Based on the experience in the past it has proven less effective and not feasible to cover all the animal welfare topics. Building on the Intergroup vision, the new Board Members will be invited to give their input on the priorities and opportunities before the Intergroup meeting in September (the secretariat will send out an online survey). The outcome of the survey will be presented at the Intergroup meeting in September. The strategic goals will determine the Intergroup agenda for the coming years, of course there should be sufficient leeway to anticipate unexpected issues, and the Intergroup should be active on key legislative procedures that relate to animal welfare and conservation and on related topics that receive a high level of media attention. In the process of adopting the strategic framework, the following criteria will be taken into account:

- Relevance to the EU legislative agenda and competencies
- Numbers of animals involved and the severity of suffering
- Likelihood of success in the legislative term

The Intergroup will make use of the following means to achieve its strategic goals:

- A. An appealing choice of topics of debate selected on the basis of strategic priorities
- B. A good choice of speakers
- C. Intergroup letters
- D. Side events
- E. Inform about follow-up actions and celebrate successes
- F. Make a sensible use of communication tools and social media
- G. Discuss again a budget for the Intergroup

A. An appealing choice of topics of debate selected on the basis of strategic priorities

The topics of debate will be selected on the basis of the strategic framework. This will allow that proposed Intergroup initiatives can have a concrete influence on the parliamentary movements of the dossiers and will moreover attract a larger number of MEPs, assistants and parliamentarians who are directly involved in these issues.

Other topics which are not directly related to the Parliament's work can be discussed as well but before placing those on the Intergroup's agenda there must be clarity about the goals.

Proposed strategic priorities

The topics of debate will be selected on the basis of the strategic framework. This will allow that proposed Intergroup initiatives can have a concrete influence on the parliamentary movements of the dossiers and will moreover attract a larger number of MEPs, assistants and parliamentarians who are directly involved in these issues.

Other topics which are not directly related to the Parliament's work can be discussed as well but before placing those on the Intergroup's agenda there must be clarity about the goals.

The proposed strategic priorities are based on consultations with Intergroup Board Members.

Overarching issues

- The Intergroup will urge the new College of Commissioners to put forward a new animal welfare strategy for 2016-2021 and will demand the attention and action of the new European

Commission on the Intergroup priorities for the next term. The Intergroup will call on the new College of Commissioners to deliver results on all planned initiatives listed in the animal welfare strategy for 2012-2015 including an [animal welfare framework law](#) that provides the highest level of welfare possible.

- The Intergroup will operate as a watchdog for the implementation and enforcement of [animal welfare related legislation](#) and will put pressure on the Commission and Member States where necessary. In this respect it is of vital importance that the envisaged [animal welfare reference centres](#) will become reality during this term.
- Concerning the [EU's trade agreements with third countries](#) the Intergroup will highlight the need to make sure that existing and future EU animal welfare standards are not watered down and that EU animal welfare related requirements are also applied abroad for imports into the EU. A particular focus will be given to the [Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership \(TTIP\)](#) the trade agreement to be negotiated between the European Union and the United States.
- With regard to the [proposed Animal Health Law \(Regulation 2013/0136\)](#), the Intergroup will push for the adoption of all first reading amendments introduced by the Paulsen report in which support improved prevention and control of transmissible animal diseases whilst respecting animal welfare and recognising the interlinkages between animal health and animal welfare.
- The Intergroup will initiate an EU horizontal Animal Welfare platform involving representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council as well as key-stakeholders to ensure an integrative and effective approach of animal welfare dossiers.
- The Intergroup will [discuss and promote education campaigns for animal welfare](#) like the EDUCAWEL project, a study on education and information activities on animal welfare in the EU, launched by the European Commission and coordinated by IRTA a research institute owned by the Government of Catalonia adscribed to the Department of Agriculture.

Research animals

- The Intergroup will urge the new College of Commissioners to put forward a comprehensive EU strategy to decrease animal testing while driving the acceptance and uptake of alternative methods. This will be linked to a [visit of the JRC EURL ECVAM in Ispra Italy](#).
- The Intergroup will call for an uptake of internationally accepted testing methods and strategies during the revision of the annexes of the EU chemical legislation, REACH

Sustainable farming & food

- The Intergroup will call on the new College of Commissioners to put forward a proposal for the [revision of the Transport Regulation EC 1/2005](#) which will include an 8 hours limit for mammals and 4 hours for poultry.
- The EP should ensure that the [proposed directives on cloning of animals of the bovine, porcine, ovine, caprine and equine species kept and reproduced for farming purposes \(0433/2013\(COD\)\) and on the placing on the market of food from animal clones \(2013/0434\(APP\)\)](#) will maintain a full ban on the cloning of animals for food and put forward amendments which will include offspring and transparency measures as labelling.
- The Intergroup will set up a [task force on anti-microbial resistance](#) with the aim to achieve a legally binding timetable to phase out routine 'preventative' use of antibiotics on farms.
- The Intergroup will urge the new College of Commissioners to [publish expected sustainable food communication](#) followed by sustainable food policy initiatives which support higher standards of animal welfare whilst addressing the resource inefficiency of the food chain. The CAP reform in 2019 should be intertwined with the sustainable food policy.
- The Intergroup will encourage the Parliament to propose substantial amendments to the [Commission proposal for a regulation on organic production and labelling of organic products \(2014/0100\(COD\)\)](#) to ensure that organic farming protects higher standards of animal welfare and maintains consumer confidence.

- The Intergroup will urge the new College of Commissioners to increase transparency for consumers and facilitate investments in sustainable farming, for example by introducing **mandatory method of production labelling of meat and dairy products** underpinned by outcome based welfare indicators.
- The Intergroup will encourage the House to call on the new College of Commissioners to **put forward species-specific legislation for animals which are not protected yet** (i.e. such as exists for calves, pigs, laying hens and broilers). Such legislation is in particular urgently needed for **dairy cows, horses, rabbits, ducks, geese, turkeys and fish**.
- The Intergroup will urge the Parliament to call on the new College of Commissioners for a resumption of the dialogue between religious authorities and civil society to **ensure that all animals are stunned before killing** and that, for the time being, animals killed without prior stunning are **properly labelled**, not to mislead the non-religious customers.
- The Intergroup will encourage the House to ensure that the future **proposals on simplification of meat inspection will not lead to a decreasing number of official veterinarians** in abattoirs, as it would lead to a major risk for animal welfare and food safety.
- The Intergroup will demonstrate the clear need for an **import ban of horsemeat into the Union** from third countries where it is not clear that European standards are being honoured, particularly in light of on-going TTIP negotiations.

Wildlife

- The Intergroup will keep a close eye on the enforcement of the **Habitats and Birds Directive** and raise upcoming concerns related to these central pieces of EU legislation on wildlife conservation.
- The Intergroup will encourage the Parliament to play an active role in the development of an ambitious and united EU position for the upcoming **CITES COP17** meeting to be held in South Africa in 2016 in order to help **tackle the unprecedented increase in wildlife trafficking** that we are currently experiencing.
- The Intergroup will encourage the new Commission and the Parliament to adopt an ambitious **Action Plan to Combat Wildlife Trafficking**.
- The Intergroup will urge the new Commission to finalise an ambitious **DEVCO Wildlife Conservation Strategy** for Africa as quickly as possible.
- The Intergroup will urge the new Commission to move swiftly on the implementation of the Invasive Alien Species Regulation which will encourage Member States to undertake preventive measures, build up best practises and emphasize humane controls. The Intergroup will call as well on the new Commission to develop a precautionary and scientifically robust list of Invasive Alien Species.
- The Intergroup will urge both the Parliament and the new Commission to take action regarding the serious inconsistencies and gaps in the **implementation and enforcement of the EU Zoo Directive** across Member States and will call for a strong stance to be taken with regards to wild animals kept in **circuses**.
- The Intergroup will **call for a ban on cetaceans in captivity**.

Companion animals

- The Intergroup will **demonstrate the need for mandatory registration and identification of companion animals** following the Study on the Welfare of Cats and Dogs involved in Commercial Practices, based on threats to human and animal health and consumer protection.
- The Intergroup will urge the new College of Commissioners to propose high welfare **guidelines on the population management of stray pet control management**, in line with the control plans that will be mandated under the proposed Animal Health Law.

- The Intergroup will encourage the use of quality standards for dogs and cats (covering breeding, buying and trade), which should aim to inform consumers. Such standards could be disseminated via new Union Reference Centres for Animal Welfare, as proposed in the draft Official Controls Regulation.
- The Intergroup will encourage MEPs to support a change to the proposed Animal Health Law to require mandatory registration (with competent authorities) of commercial breeders and sellers of companion animals.
- Equines in the European Union are currently falling in between cracks of laws for pet animals and farm animals. There is either a lack of consistent legislative rules or the existing ones are poorly enforceable. Equines being frequently transported and traded and even used for food consumption means that both consumer and animal interests are at stake. Intrinsic to any future improvement for EU's equines will be enhanced identification and registration mechanisms. The Intergroup will call for harmonised national databases based on a single passport issuing organisation using electronic identification.

B. A good choice of speakers

Speakers should possibly be experts who are able to inspire and to engage in lively in-depth discussions with MEPs. Usually they are EU officials or representatives from NGOs who cover their own expenses. However, the lack of an independent budget for the Intergroup sometimes limits the choice of qualified speakers.

C. Intergroup letters

Letters are among the main tools of the Intergroup to take initiative. They are therefore very important for the Intergroup's impact.

Unless Members of the Intergroup express the wish to draft specific letters themselves, the secretariat is in charge of this task. The latter should also evaluate whether the dispatch of a letter and the expected reply can provide a concrete outcome. It should be avoided to send out letters in cases where it is clear from the start that no reply will be obtained.

Especially on issues of urgency the Board Members expect from the secretariat to take the initiative for the preparation of letters and to make sure that they are dispatched in time. It is not necessary that a larger number of Intergroup Members sign the letters unless it is required for a specific purpose.

The President of the Intergroup should sign all letters from the Intergroup.

Dispatched letters and their replies should be consistently published on a specific webpage of the Intergroup website unless they have to remain confidential. Additionally, the replies to the letters should be forwarded for information to all Members of the Intergroup. The secretariat should evaluate whether further actions to a reply are needed and inform the Intergroup Members about it.

D. Side events

The Intergroup should organise at least twice a year a side event which can be a meeting with a Commissioner or an outstanding personality or seminars and conferences on selected issues. They should be preferably organised in Brussels to attract a larger audience.

Fact finding trips of Intergroup Members can be included in such initiatives.

E. Inform about follow-up actions and celebrate successes

The Intergroup has to be consistent and perseverant in following up its initiatives in order to have a concrete impact. It has to inform the public about its actions and celebrate its successes. The Intergroup secretariat has the role to coordinate but the whole Intergroup has to be motivated for this task. Make a sensible use of communication tools and social media

F. Make a sensible use of communication tools and social media

During the new term, the website and the twitter account of the Intergroup will follow the indications of a communication strategy which will be worked out by the secretariat with input from the Board Members.

G. A budget for the Intergroup

An own budget of the Intergroup has been envisaged several times but so far Intergroup Members have always been reluctant to establish one to avoid further bureaucratisation of this unofficial body of the Parliament. It is unlikely that we will get a budget but it can be discussed again. External sponsors should be possibly avoided as it would restrict the independent character of the Intergroup.