



Ms Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1040 Brussels
Ursula.VON-DER-LEYEN@ec.europa.eu

Brussels, 5 September 2023

Re: The inclusion of the four animal welfare related legislative proposals in the Commission's work programme for next year

Dear President von der Leyen,

On behalf of the EP Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals, I am writing to you with the urgent request to express a firm commitment to the delivery of the revised animal welfare legislation in your upcoming State of the Union address, and confirm the inclusion of the legislation in the Commission's work programme for 2024.

In several resolutions, the European Parliament has repeatedly highlighted the need to revise the current animal welfare legislation to reflect the latest scientific knowledge and provide for higher animal welfare standards, but also better enforcement. The European Parliament takes animal welfare very seriously and wants to see further legislative improvements.

The vast majority of European citizens deeply care about animal welfare, as reflected in several opinion polls and, to my knowledge, also in the last special Eurobarometer on animal welfare which was due to be published already before the summer break. Indeed, also the majority of successful European Citizens Initiatives address animal related issues. Not acting on citizens' expectations before the upcoming European elections would be detrimental and would further contribute to alienating them.

Moreover, back in 2019, the Council too asked for a revision of the animal welfare legislation which subsequently led to several position papers calling to improve animal welfare rules, like

the 2022 [position](#) on live animal transport which gained support from a qualified majority of Member States.

Given all these arguments, the EP Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals, which convenes more than 100 MEPs from all political groups, calls on you to stay strong on the Commission's commitment to deliver the proposals on animal welfare within this term.

We therefore ask you to mention the animal welfare legislation package in your upcoming State of the Union address and to include the four proposals in the Commission's work programme for 2024.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration and support, I send you my best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Tilly Metz MEP
President of the Animal Welfare Intergroup