

Brussels, 10th February 2022

RE: Open letter regarding the Plenary vote on the AGRI implementation report on on-farm animal welfare

On Monday 14th February the Parliament is due to vote on the AGRI implementation report on on-farm animal welfare by the rapporteur Jérémy Decerle MEP (RE, FR).

Eurogroup for Animals, Compassion in World Farming and Four Paws regret that this report has not fulfilled its primary purpose to provide comprehensive conclusions on the implementation of selected farm animal welfare related EU legislation. It presents a text that is full with positions from a bygone age. It ignores much of the scientific knowledge gained in regards to the welfare of animals over recent years, pays little or no attention to the many problems inherent in the current farming systems — especially intensive animal production — falls much below citizens' expectations. It fails to mention the possible positive impact of improving animal welfare (e.g. on antimicrobial resistance), contradicts positions previously adopted by this Parliament such as on a Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system and the recent resolution on the ECI "End the Cage Age" by presenting foie gras as an animal welfare-friendly practice. It states that the widespread breaches to the animal welfare legislation, also acknowledged by the Commission, are "anecdotal cases", thus **sidestepping the original scope of the mandate for this report: the implementation of EU legislation concerning the welfare of animals on farms.**

Many paragraphs address solely farmers' economic needs. Even though we strongly believe that farmers should be considered and supported in transitioning to higher animal welfare systems, **we deplore the misleading use of "animal welfare", a cause particularly close to the heart of citizens, to address other economic issues.**

A whole section is dedicated to animal welfare labelling an issue that is out of context in an implementation report.

For these reasons we call on you for the following:

- [Please support amendment 2](#), which proposes an alternative motion for a resolution, i.e. the ENVI opinion.
- Should amendment 2 not be carried we respectfully ask you to reject the implementation report on on-farm animal welfare **by voting against** in the final vote on the resolution as a whole.

Many thanks in advance for your consideration and support.

Reineke Hameleers
CEO
Eurogroup for Animals

Olga Kikou
Head
Compassion in World Farming – EU

Pierre Sultana
Director, European Policy Office
FOUR PAWS