



As Ursula von der Leyen has been appointed as the next President of the European Commission, she stated during its meetings with the newly-elected MEPs that animal welfare should be a priority for the European institutions notably through the definition of the CAP post-2020. We welcome this position and we hope that together with the Finnish Presidency of the Council which also announced its will to promote animal welfare that concrete actions and announcements will be presented in the upcoming months. As a professional expert group with direct interest in animal welfare, we need to concentrate our efforts in utilizing both these declarations to best possible use.

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PRIORITY ISSUES

The new President-elected of the Commission made statements for better animal welfare in the EU

Ursula von der Leyen will be the next President of the European Commission, after the European Parliament voted by a majority of MEPs in favour of her appointment on 16 July 2019. Beforehand, during hearings with parliamentary political groups, she expressed **support for renewed actions to improve animal welfare** during her term. She explained that animal welfare is included in the programme related to biodiversity and climate neutrality.

Furthermore, following a question from a Greens/EFA MEP, she also stated that **animal welfare “should be one of the main pillars of the Common Agriculture Policy”**. Even though animal welfare was not explicitly mentioned during her statement addressing the European Parliament before the vote, her support towards a right of legislative initiative for the European Parliament (through a Commission proposal following a Parliament own-initiative resolution) is seen by many stakeholders as a **step forward to legislative improvements to animal welfare**.

The Finnish presidency of the Council is committed to “foster animal welfare”

As the Finnish Presidency of the Council of the European Union started on 1st of July, the government promised in its [programme](#) to “**foster animal welfare**”. The statement is linked with proposed actions to better implement the UN Convention on biological diversity and the promotion of the sustainable use of natural resources. As a matter of fact, **Finland is considered progressive from an animal welfare point of view**, with 99% of respondents in the country considering animal welfare to be ‘important’ in the [2015 Eurobarometer on European Attitudes towards Animal Welfare](#). An increased number believe that the welfare of farmed animals should be better protected than it is now. This attitude is reflected in the political arena: around 50 Finnish MEP candidates [signed the animal welfare pledge](#) for the European elections and the [Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals](#) has had a Finnish MEP, **Sirpa PIETIKÄINEN** (EPP) as its president for the past four years. Therefore, these statements are really welcomed by animal welfare advocates and they call the Finnish Presidency to act accordingly during its six-month term.

A new model of animal health certificate for the commercial movements of dogs, cats and ferrets has been published in the Official Journal of the EU

On 16 July, a [Commission implementing decision](#) was published on the Official Journal of the European Union, amending the animal health certificate for trade in dogs, cats and ferrets. The provisions of the certificate are laid down in [Directive 92/65/EEC](#) for the animal health requirements for trade in the European Union. The aim of the decision is to **apply preventive health measures for the control of *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection in dogs**. A transitional period is allowed until 31 December 2019 to issue the previous model of the animal health certificate.

Update on the EMA activities

Decisions of the Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use (CVMP)

The Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use (CVMP) held a [meeting](#) from 16-18 July 2019. It adopted by consensus a positive opinion for an initial marketing authorisation application for **Simparica Trio**, a new antiparasitic for dogs. It also adopted by consensus positive opinions for type II variation applications for **NexGard**, **NExgard Spectra**, **Broadline** and **MS-H Vaccine**. The Committee adopted by consensus a positive opinion for the renewal of the marketing authorisation for **Porcilis PCV M Hyo**.

The Committee concluded the referral procedure for **veterinary medicinal products containing paromomycin to be administered parenterally to pigs**. The Committee adopted, by consensus, an opinion concluding that the benefit-risk balance for the concerned veterinary medicinal products is negative as there were inadequate data to support efficacy of these products for the proposed indications at the recommended treatment dose and that this deficiency poses a risk of ineffective treatment and antimicrobial resistance development. The CVMP recommended the **suspension of the marketing authorisations** for the concerned veterinary medicinal products.

The Committee adopted **two scientific advices reports** further to requests for:

- Initial advice on efficacy issues for a new veterinary medicinal product acting on the reproductive system in pigs;
- Initial advice on quality, safety and efficacy issues for a new veterinary medicinal product for a general indication for horses.

OTHER ISSUES

Latest news on animal disease at EU level

- **African Swine Fever (ASF):** during the Agriculture Council on 15 July, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety **Vytenis ANDRIUKAITIS** stated that the EU and Member states should **raised its vigilance level, as the disease usually peaks during summer**. Several Member states recalled for a good implementation of preventive measures, and a good collaboration between national authorities and the European Commission in order to properly fight the disease.

Latest updates on animal welfare at EU level

The European Commission calls Member States to better protect animals during transport on summer

During the Agriculture Council on 15 July 2019, the European Commission asked Member States to take measures to **prevent long-distance transport of animals under high temperatures**. It was asked to stop exportations to third countries (especially to Turkey), as many South Europeans ports lack infrastructures to protect animals before loading on boats.

The FVE also [called](#) to implement and respect agreed laws for the welfare of animals during transport under extreme temperatures. They claim that “animals should be reared as close as possible to the premises on which they are born and slaughtered as close as possible to the point of production”.

Relaunch of a campaign against piglet castration without anaesthesia

This month, the NGO WELFARM re-launched their [campaign](#) **against piglet castration without anaesthesia** in France. According to the organisation, 10 million male piglets, 85% of them no older than 7 days old, are castrated without anaesthesia in France every year, due to lack of the [EU Pig Directive](#) enforcement.

WELFARM is collecting citizens' signatures that will be re-submitted to the French Ministry for Agriculture demanding a **national ban of live piglet castration**. After national bans in Sweden, Switzerland and Norway, a ban delayed but underway in Germany and minimisation of castration without pain relief in Spain, the UK and the Netherlands, WELFARM calls on the French government to follow suit, and encourages French MPs to put pressure on the government at the national assembly.

NGOs are worried about the lack of animal welfare provisions in the EU-Mercosur agreement

As the European Union and Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) concluded their trade agreement after 20 years of negotiations, **some stakeholders are worried on the animal welfare perspective**: the liberalisation in many key animal-based products such as beef and chicken will not include the condition to better respect animal welfare standards, putting European producers under pressure, according to Eurogroup for Animals.

Moreover, according to the organisation, the **wording on animal welfare cooperation is too weak** to ensure any concrete progress for animals in the absence of strong political willingness in Mercosur countries. Since the Mercosur is the EU's first source of meat imports, granting further preferential access to the European beef and chicken market would mean the lowering of animal welfare provisions, as they are not fully implemented within the EU at first, stated the NGO. Therefore, they are calling for a **proper implementation of animal welfare provisions** within the EU at first, and **setting strong requirements** towards animal welfare in free trade agreements.

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