

Animal Welfare Party

2014 EU Parliament Election Manifesto

ANP

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We Think It's Time
To Make History



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Introduction

The Animal Welfare Party (AWP) is in favour of European cooperation but is against the present undemocratic form of the European Union. Many people feel uncomfortable about the influence of the EU on their country. The Animal Welfare Party understands that feeling of discomfort. Democratic international cooperation can result in improvements for people, animals, nature and the environment. But it doesn't seem to work that way now.

At present, Europe is confining non-human animals (referred to as animals from here on) en masse in super farms, plundering the seas, disrupting ecosystems worldwide and causing plant and animal extinction. Agriculture and fisheries subsidies have represented the highest costs of the EU for years. The intensive poultry industry uses those subsidies for its promotional campaigns and bullfighting is preserved by them. The seas are increasingly overfished and problems are caused for developing countries because European products are dumped on their markets, all at the expense of the taxpayer. Meanwhile, Europe is weighed down by the consequences of the introduction of the euro and its ill-considered expansion into countries that were not ready. And all that while Member States are increasingly losing their powers to Brussels without involving their citizens.

The main reason for the disruption of the European thought process is that means have become an end. Economic integration was once the means to establish peace between countries, but now the decision-making is monopolised by economic interests. Europe trusts blindly in economic growth and the debate has been hijacked by focussing on short-term budgets. EU citizens have been reduced to consumers and taxpayers, animals and the environment to consumables.

The second reason for the poor functioning of the EU is that the officials are pushing through their dream of a United States of Europe, without listening to what their citizens want. In both cases, citizens of the EU are side-lined.

But does that make everything that ever came out of Europe bad? Of course not. Collaboration can be very effective. The EU has also taken steps in the field of animal welfare, such as the ban on battery-farmed hens. But considering the huge industrialisation and expansion of the agricultural sector, very much encouraged by Europe with its unilateral focus on increased production, these are only minor steps to heal the wounds. It's a 'band-aid' solution. Battery cages may be banned, but Europe doesn't mind that chickens are kept en masse in 'enriched' cages: "wallpapered" battery cages. And the endless torment of animals in overloaded livestock trucks travelling

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thousands of miles to their deaths is a direct result of the notion of 'free trade' taken too far.

Furthermore, the decisions made in the interest of animal welfare, nature and the environment were mainly made in the 1990s, when there were only 15 EU Member States. Now the EU, with its twenty-eight Member States, has become so enormous that Brussels' ambitions for proper, strict rules in the field of animal welfare, nature and the environment have completely disappeared. After initially being the driving force behind appropriate climate arrangements worldwide, the poor climate objectives that Europe has now set for itself are a sad reflection of those.

In short, the bigger the EU is becoming, the more European rules have become part of the lowest common denominator. We live in a Europe of the minimum and, sadly, Member States now often use their membership of the EU as an excuse for not having to take action themselves - 'no national add-ons to European policy.' The EU often cripples policies at national level by doing so and the ambitions of Member States are ended. In some cases, the EU even prohibits Member States from taking progressive measures.

The tide must turn. A new course for Europe and a different type of European cooperation is what the Animal Welfare Party wants to work towards in the European Parliament. A cooperation that is focussed on the realisation of ideals such as sustainability, compassion, freedom and responsibility. The Animal Welfare Party believes in a Europe that gives both humans and animals the opportunity to live a good life. Such a Europe consists of independent countries that democratically decide to tackle cross-border issues together, who share key values and who agree to uphold and help each other adhere to them. In such a cooperation, countries can learn from and support each other to create a better society in harmony with their living environment.

This is only possible if we stop considering economic growth as the Holy Grail and work on decreasing our ecological footprint instead. We have to talk about what type of society we want, which values we want to prioritise, what life we want to live and how we can enable ourselves and others - humans and animals - to live this life now and in the long term. The European society that the Animal Welfare Party stands for gives priority to sustainability and compassion instead of short-term economic gain. It respects the freedom and privacy of its citizens and gives them a greater role in decision-making than the banks, multinationals and Brussels-based civil servants do.

But will a still small party like the Animal Welfare Party actually be able to make a difference in Europe? Yes, it will. The Animal Welfare Party is one of seven European

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animal protection parties standing in the EU Parliament elections. Our group is informally known as the Euro Animal 7 and includes the animal protection parties of the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Spain, Portugal, the UK and Cyprus. We are all united in our aim to give animals dedicated representatives in the EU Parliament. We believe that only this way the needs of animals can be properly protected.

Animal Welfare Party believes that this Pan-European movement reflects a huge sea change in public opinion and signals the end for speciesism, which, we believe, is as outmoded as racism and sexism.

Our Dutch counterparts, The Party for the Animals (PvdD) hold two seats in the Dutch Lower House, have a Senator and over 20 local and regional elected representatives. The party has already demonstrated that it has a disproportional influence on debates and that it is able to encourage change. It will be the same in Europe. The Animal Welfare Party and our European counterparts will address issues in Europe that no one else addresses. Like a pacer in a marathon we will stimulate, inspire and challenge others to start moving faster than they imagined.

To us and many of our supporters, this is a moment in time as pivotal as any in the history of human rights or women's rights. Electing one or more representatives for animals to the EU Parliament would send a message to the rest of the world that man's relationship with animals is changing, that we are re-defining who we are and what we believe in. This is, in effect, about writing a new chapter in the history of humankind.

We invite you to play your part in writing that new chapter by supporting the Animal Welfare Party in the 2014 EU Parliament elections.

Only exceptional parties like those in the Euro Animal 7 can shake matters up by our bold proposals and unconventional actions. Our criticism of Brussels is constructive. Environmental criticism of the EU is a relatively new phenomenon. In our case it is not born out of nationalism or self-interest, but out of a belief in the need to live sustainability and with compassion. There is a world to be won.

Be true to yourself. Vote for the Animal Welfare Party.

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1. The moral and legal status of animals

Animals are living creatures, not toys or accessories or a means of entertainment. Animals deserve protection. This starts with the recognition of their intrinsic value, which is independent of the value that people place upon them, and respect for their own needs. Such recognition should apply to all animals and define the limits of the purposes for which animals may be used.

Non-human animals are not property, but sentient beings. Article 6B of the Lisbon Treaty recognises animals as sentient beings, placing a duty upon Member States to protect their welfare. In fact, the European Union has recognised animals as sentient beings with feelings and consciousness since 1992. But, at the same time, Europe places cultural and religious traditions - such as bullfighting - above the interests of animals. Economic interests are given more consideration than the interests of animals. Production increase is, officially, still the only purpose of the agricultural policy. In everyday life, animals in Europe are primarily given the status of a commodity.

In addition to the billions of animals that die in the livestock industry every year, it is still permitted in Europe to breed animals and to kill them for a superfluous and cruel fashion product like fur. Tens of millions of minks, foxes, chinchillas and rabbits are victims of the fur industry every year. Bulls are tortured for 'entertainment' in Spain and France. Across Europe, thousands of dolphins and other sea mammals wither away in dolphinariums. Over twelve million animals are used for research and testing in Europe every year. Animal suffering in the EU is large-scale and serious.

The Animal Welfare Party rejects the notion that animals can be used for any purpose humans see fit. Entertainment, sport and fashion are not justifiable reasons for causing harm to or affecting the welfare of animals. We believe that before animals are used for a purpose, the legitimacy of that purpose should be assessed - after all, their life and welfare is at stake. Europe must become more reluctant towards the use of animals. The Animal Welfare Party will promote better protection against neglect, abuse and misuse. Europe should support that protection to a greater degree, both inside and outside its borders. At international level, for example the United Nations; we want the EU to demonstrate that it strongly advocates improvements in animal welfare.

Furthermore, evidence suggests a link between abuse of non-human animals and human violence. Several serial killers are known to have abused and killed other animals before 'progressing' to killing human beings. Many human health and social professionals are still not aware of this link and proper integration between human and animal services is lacking. Humans and animals may therefore be at risk.

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Alongside the continuous need for improving human rights across the world, it is time to recognise other animals as beings in their own right. The Animal Welfare Party believes protection ultimately means animals are no longer used as a means to an end.

- The Animal Welfare Party believes a consultation on the European Convention on Human Rights should include a question on reform to tackle its species exclusivity.
- The Universal Declaration of Animal Rights was drawn up in 1978. The EU should revisit the proposed Declaration and support its premise.
- A permanent Parliamentary Commission for Animal Interests should be established to assess acceptability of all forms of animal use on the basis of cost-benefit analyses.
- The media has a huge role to play in influencing how animals are perceived. Despite animals being recognised as sentient beings in the Lisbon Treaty and a duty of care placed upon Member States to protect their welfare, animal suffering is still frequently trivialised in advertising campaigns and editorial content across Europe. Animal Welfare Party intends to push for bodies regulating advertising, broadcast and press content to view such issues with the seriousness they deserve and for these bodies to be better funded and supported, where the latter have been factors in their inaction.

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2 Healthy agriculture, sustainable food

Agriculture is not an industry and animals are not machines. If we close the natural nutrient cycles and farmers are able to work in harmony with nature again, and if consumers pay a fair price for healthy food, we can work towards a healthy agriculture. Where, in the short term, until we have realised our need to end our dependence upon them, animals can express their natural behaviour, outside, and are treated with respect. Where vegetables, grains and fruit are produced without pesticides, fertilizer and GM technology. Where we create a healthy market that is not affected by subsidies, but where food has real value. Where there are short food supply chains between farmers and consumers. Those are the ingredients of the agricultural policy that the Animal Welfare Party envisages for the European Union.

Agriculture has always been the policy area that Brussels pays most attention to and spends most money on. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has created many victims. Over the years, billions of animals have suffered and been killed in the European livestock industry. Nature and the environment have been seriously affected by the large scale use of pesticides and fertilizers. Family farms have been forced onto the disastrous road of being ever more productive. Markets in developing countries have often been destroyed by the dumping of European surpluses. And all this at the expense of the taxpayer. Despite the free market that Europe says that it wishes to create, tens of billions of euros are spent on agricultural subsidies every year, particularly benefiting large companies. The largest part of the European budget is gobbled up by industrial agriculture.

Sadly, the wealth of Europe is largely based on the exploitation of people, animals and the environment in other parts of the world. The EU makes large and irresponsible demands on global resources and agricultural lands by its resource use and the importation of food, livestock and biomass. By doing so, it denies people in developing countries their justifiable share. European subsidies to farmers and fishermen deny entrepreneurs in developing countries a fair chance.

If it were up to the Animal Welfare Party, European agricultural policy would be thoroughly reformed. In the interest of a sustainable future, we aim for a radical change of policy into an ecological, animal-friendly agriculture that produces healthy food and which is not dependent on imports at the expense of people and animals abroad.

The world population currently sits at around 7 billion, expected to rise to between 8 and 10 billion by 2050. To be able to feed everybody, now and in the future, a reduction of

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livestock and a transition to a more plant-based food pattern is inevitable. Yet far too few parties have policies in place for tackling this issue.

We want to use the present agricultural subsidies to help farmers to transition to sustainable production systems with a fair price for a fair product. Ultimately, the system of subsidies will cease to be necessary because a healthy market will have been created.

CAP spending on better agriculture

The CAP budget takes up 38% of the total EU Budget for the next five years. The focus on sustainability within the second pillar is clearly visible by the fact that at least 30% of the budget of each Rural Development programme must be reserved for voluntary measures that are beneficial for the environment and climate change. These include agri-environmental, climate measures, organic farming, Areas of Natural Constraints (ANC), Natura 2000 areas, forestry measures and investments that are beneficial for the environment or climate. Over 25 billion Euros over five years will be available under Pillar 2 'Voluntary Measures'

- We suggest that this should be spent on stock-free organic farming, agro-forestry and sustainable educational recreation, in order to ensure farmers' livelihoods well into the future.
- CAP Pillars should be revised post-2020 to reflect self-sustaining agricultural systems.
- We should reduce the overall CAP budget post-2020 so that funds can be directed towards emerging priorities.
- Post 2020: CAP payments should only to be awarded to farmers complying with minimum environmental, social and animal welfare standards
- We must end Pillar 2 (Regional Development) funding of Bullfighting

Food

No food wastage

Worldwide there is more than enough food cultivated to feed the growing world population, but too much is being wasted. If we want to fairly share resources, we have to eat less animal and more plant products. Such a shift is imperative in terms of global food security but it would also bring huge benefits for our own health, reducing pressure on our national health systems, nature and the environment.

- By far the largest and most irresponsible type of food wastage is the feeding of animals with food that can also be eaten by humans. Grains, soya and vegetable oils should not be used as a raw material for the livestock industry.

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- The Animal Welfare Party believes Europe should end the illusion that the production of meat and dairy products has minimal costs. Until we have ended our dependence upon such products, cut-price special offers on meat should disappear, and a fair price be paid for milk and eggs.
- In accordance with the 'polluter pays' principle the EU should reconsider its VAT Directive: a low rate should be set for sustainable, healthy food and a high rate for products that involve environmental burden, animal distress and contribute to preventable disease
- Eating healthy and sustainably starts at school. European school milk schemes should cease, and schemes for healthy, plant-based meals should be extended, for which organic and sustainable food should be purchased. Learning how to eat healthy and sustainably should be included in the curriculum.
- The subsidy of millions of euros that are currently spent on the promotion of animal products should be ended immediately with the funds being re-directed into marketing and promotion of plant products.
- National governments must show leadership themselves, reducing public spending on the promotion and consumption of foodstuffs that are known to be harmful to the environment and / or human health – animal products, refined sugar, trans-fats, palm oil from unsustainable or unknown sources
- At the same time national governments must seek to both change consumer behaviour in order to promote a healthy and sustainable world. Taxes on products containing refined sugar, trans-fats, palm oil from unsustainable or unknown sources, animal products (relative to CO2 equivalent) and alcohol should be increased.
- The EU should support the establishment of industry bodies promoting the production and consumption of healthy, plant-based foods
- The EU must increase funding of research into and development of plant-based proteins.
- An EU Sub Committee of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee should be established to promote best practice in plant-based food production.
- Food products must be labelled clearly to allow consumers to make choices in line with their own principles on the environment, health, animal welfare and the social circumstances in which a product is produced. Many consumers are unaware of the reality of how the food products they buy are produced and are shocked when they find out the truth. Labels must, therefore, provide honest and clear information on the above. For example, eggs and egg products which involve the killing of new-born male chicks as part of the production process must indicate this. Meat and poultry products obtained from animals not stunned before slaughter must

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indicate this. Misleading pictures such as laughing pigs on pork steaks and laughing cows on packets of cheese must become a thing of the past.

- Private quality marks are not a sufficient guarantee of sustainable food supply chains. The EU must set strict sustainability criteria for palm oil, soya and biomass.
- Many European regulations on best-before-dates and size and shape of fruit and vegetables are too strict and encourage food wastage. These food regulations should be changed. Citizens should be well informed of the shelf-life of food and how to keep it, and, as a result, less food will end up in the bin.
- Europe should stimulate the development of urban growing to show children and adults where food actually comes from, to recover the connection between people and food and to improve awareness of the costs and quality of food.
- To counter mass-produced products, frequently manufactured outwith the EU, we would like to encourage more traditional and local plant-based products. The EU will amend food regulations that unnecessarily hinder the marketing of these products.
- The effort to achieve a more sustainable food pattern requires a clear standard: plant-based food should be the basis of a healthy, sustainable diet; animal proteins should be the exception.
- Opinion leaders, influencers and policy makers should walk the talk. Food served in the restaurants of European institutions and at official dinners should be organic and produced locally. As it would be irresponsible for public funds to be spent on the consumption of foodstuffs that are known to be harmful to the environment and/or human health, the food served should be free of or include a minimum of animal products, refined sugar and trans-fats.

A healthy market for healthy food

The value of sustainable, honest food should be reflected in the price we pay. The real price for food is concealed by subsidies costing millions of euros, giving consumers the impression that food is cheap. Furthermore, the real costs of intensive agriculture, which are kept out of sight of citizens, are shifted onto the environment and society. A change to a sustainable food system is needed, giving farmers a fair price for their quality products.

- The Common Agricultural Policy needs to be thoroughly reformed. The millions of euros of subsidies currently paid to farmers must begin to be used more responsibly and with more thought for the long term. This budget must encourage farmers to change to ecological agriculture working towards a point where subsidies are ended altogether.
- Research budgets for agriculture should be awarded to agro-ecological practices, the development of closed loop recycling in ecosystems and the development of resistant crop varieties. EU funds must no longer be awarded to research that is

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aimed at further intensification of non-sustainable factory farming.

- European subsidies should be exclusively awarded on the basis of social services and performances that contribute to a sustainable, social and animal-friendly Europe. As long as the agricultural policy remains unreformed, only appropriate agricultural practices and sustainable water management should be rewarded.
- The European subsidies that fall under the second pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy should exclusively be awarded to ecological agriculture.
- Member States should be given the opportunity to take measures to ensure that farmers, growers and dairy/cattle farmers can obtain a fair price for their products. This will restrict the buying power of supermarkets.
- To mitigate the effects of food speculation on global food security, food speculation should be limited.
- The production of surpluses of meat, eggs and dairy products should become impermissible. 'Buy-outs', such as those that take place in times of surpluses and that are paid for with tax revenue should be prevented.

Pesticide-free vegetables and diverse horticulture

Vegetables, grains, legumes and fruit are the foundation of good, healthy diet. But here, a change to sustainable production methods is also necessary. The cultivation of vegetables should no longer be dependent on raw fossil materials (fertilizer). The high use of pesticides severely harms biodiversity, is a threat to our drinking water and to public health. Monocultures make it increasingly difficult for insects and birds to find sufficient food.

- The Animal Welfare Party wants to drastically reduce the use of fertilizers and agrotoxins and to have them replaced by ecological alternatives.
- Field margins, which enhance biodiversity and accommodate natural enemies for pests, should be obligatory.
- Hazardous chemical pesticides that pose a risk for people and animals must be taken off the market immediately. These include neonicotinoids, which also cause bee mortality, glyphosate, the soil fumigator metam-sodium and a large number of fungi controllers that form a threat to public health.
- So long as agriculture is not toxin-free, there will be strict protection for people living around arable and horticultural areas to protect them against exposure to chemical pesticides. Non-spray zones must be created between fields that are sprayed with pesticides and houses, schools and recreational areas. Spraying will not be permitted in the vicinity of public roads and paths where people walk or cycle.
- All chemical pesticides currently on the market must be re-tested against much stricter criteria, whereby the precautionary principle will be applied. No animal

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testing will be conducted for this. Only pesticides that are demonstrably safe for humans, animals and the environment should be permitted to remain on the market.

- The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) must be thoroughly reformed. This organisation, and the commission that writes recommendations on the admission of pesticides and genetically modified crops, must be completely independent. We want to end the close relationship that exists between the EFSA and the chemical industry.
- Pesticides and GM crops must be independently tested. Studies provided by producers themselves should not be considered sufficient to ensure safety. The recommendations of the EFSA and the studies that these are based on must comply with the highest standards of transparency and accessibility. Any studies that have been used to inform a decision to admit a pesticide must be made public, retroactively, so that independent scientists are able to criticise the admission.
- Plant and animal species and varieties should not be the property of companies and our food supply should not be placed in the hands of monopolists. Patents on forms of life (such as genetic material, DNA markers) must be prohibited. Europe must resist the efforts of companies such as Monsanto and BASF to patent the genes of plants and animals and to dominate the food market.
- The right of farmers and cultivators to grow the seeds of their own plants (Plant Breeder's Rights), is of great importance to maintain diversity in food crops and free access to them. The Animal Welfare Party wants these rights to be strengthened, both in Europe and in developing countries, so that farmers and cultivators can make free use of the existing agro-biodiversity without patents making it impossible to do so.
- Accounting rules may not hinder the free trade of seeds. The interest of small farmers, horticulturists and food security should be favoured. Rare and old crop varieties must be given protection. The Animal Welfare Party resists any new rules that would endanger the biodiversity of crops.
- The development of organic resistant varieties of crops must be able to count on the support of the EU.

A GM-technology free Europe

The Animal Welfare Party rejects genetic manipulation and promotes a GM-technology free Europe. This tinkering with animals and plants affects the intrinsic value of life. Herbicide resistant crops such as GM soya and maize have only boosted the use of toxic pesticides. Furthermore, genetic manipulation is a threat to customary and organic cultivation because the crops can become contaminated with GM crops. A free choice to be GM-technology free is made impossible by this.

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- The Animal Welfare Party opposes the cultivation and importation of genetically modified crops anywhere in Europe.
- EU Member States must not be forced to permit the cultivation of GM crops on their territory. Until the full prohibition of import and cultivation is achieved, we want Member States and regions to be given the authority to prohibit the cultivation of GM crops. Furthermore, when assessing these crops and new breeding techniques, the impact on food security, freedom of choice, and the position of small farmers must also be accurately assessed.
- Labelling for meat, dairy products and eggs from animals that are fed with GM crops must become mandatory.
- Europe will not support efforts to keep cisgenesis (a form of genetic manipulation), a so-called innocent variant of classic breeding, out of the risk assessments and licence issuance for genetic engineering.
- New breeding techniques must be thoroughly assessed on their impact on humans, animals, the environment, nature and food security.
- Additionally, regions and countries that declare themselves GM-technology free should be given support and assistance.

Pigs, poultry, cattle

Mapping a future without a livestock industry

Annually, across the EU, more than 7 billion animals are kept and slaughtered for the production of meat, dairy products and eggs. Such figures are unacceptable.

Animal Welfare Party's long-term vision is of a Europe that has ended its dependence upon animals and animal products because we have come to understand the devastating effects that such dependence has upon the environment, human health and animal welfare.

Our long-term vision is of a Europe that lives healthily and sustainably, and where animals are not exploited for any purpose.

Our Committee of National Officers and many of our members are already living such a lifestyle to 'walk our talk' and demonstrate that humans can thrive without the use of animal products.

It is not easy for any major Party to challenge the status quo on livestock farming but nothing short of a full scale re-evaluation is needed to combat climate change and preventable disease.

In the short term, Animal Welfare Party supports direct welfare measures which may

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positively impact animals' lives now. Our support for welfare measures does not detract from our long-term goal of ending all animal abuse. We believe the very least animals deserve is appropriate species-specific husbandry and care, in accordance with the Five Freedoms. Any measures that restrict animals' natural behaviour, social development and cause distress and harm through the course of their entire lives must be ended immediately and replaced with higher welfare alternatives.

The Animal Welfare Party believes that we must work towards an end to intensive livestock farming.

- A roadmap must be introduced to enable a rapid shift to animal-friendly and sustainable livestock farming.
- Factory farms and animal welfare do not go together. A European prohibition on the establishment and development of large-scale livestock farms must be introduced.
- Small-scale livestock farm systems where the natural resistance of animals is central to good health must become the standard. The maximum number of animals permitted to be kept must be gradually lowered until livestock farms return to operating within humane standards and the limitations of the earth.

Space to root about and improving welfare

Chickens need sufficient space for dust bathing, pigs must be able to root about and goats should be on grasslands. Systems must be adapted to suit the needs of the animals and not the other way around. While the European Union does set minimum welfare conditions for the way animals are kept, they are insufficient and used by countries as an excuse for not imposing stricter regulations themselves. The Animal Welfare Party opposes cages, including 'enriched' cages; farrowing crates and zero grazing, and believes that husbandry systems should adhere to at least the following minimum standards:

- All animals must have a right to outdoor free-range facilities with adequate shelter.
- Pens and stalls should have sufficient space, straw and enrichment material.
- Cows should be housed in social herds. Calves should cease to be taken away straight after birth, but allowed to grow up with their mothers in the pasture and drink the milk that is meant for them.
- The Animal Welfare Party wants to prohibit the keeping of calves in small pens on a low-iron diet to produce white veal.
- Farrowing boxes in which pigs are restrained for weeks on end must be prohibited. Sows must be given the freedom to nest and look after their piglets.
- Before licences are awarded to new husbandry systems they must be tested to ensure compliance with these regulations. New systems should only be permitted

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if it can be demonstrated that the animals can express their natural behaviour. Existing husbandry systems should be tested retroactively.

- Painful interventions such as the tail docking, beak trimming and de-horning of livestock (particularly very young animals) must end immediately.
- Europe must immediately prohibit the production of foie gras (goose or duck liver) and impose a trade and import ban.
- The breeding and keeping of meat rabbits, water buffalo, ostriches, and dromedaries must be banned.
- Strict fire safety regulations must be introduced for existing and new farm buildings; all animals must be evacuated safely or able to leave farm premises in case of fire.
- Countries that fail to observe existing European regulations covering animal welfare must be strictly dealt with through high penalties and other sanctions. When member states fail to comply with EU regulations, as they so frequently do, the EU Commission must use all powers at its disposal, including referring the case to the European Court of Justice, to bring infringements to an end as quickly as possible.

Laying hens and male chicks

- Only non-aggressive laying hen breeds, such as Columbian Blacktails, should be kept, in small flocks.
- As a 'by-product' of the egg production industry, in the UK alone, around 40 million day-old male chicks are killed each year. AWP finds such a huge waste of life impossible to justify and believes that all egg production methods which involve the killing of newly hatched male chicks must be phased out.
- Until all egg production methods which involve the killing of newly hatched male chicks are phased out, urgent measures must be taken to ensure that all surplus newly hatched chicks destined for disposal are treated as humanely as those not destined for disposal.
- The practice of 'disposing' of newly hatched male chicks before they are dead, in waste sacks and vats, where they frequently die from crushing or suffocation must end immediately.
- New-born chicks must not be thrown or tossed while alive.
- Surplus chicks must be killed promptly by a method which brings about death quickly, such as quick maceration or gassing with high concentrations of carbon dioxide.
- Current research suggests that, if facilities are maintained correctly and the killing carried out competently and effectively, quick maceration brings about death within seconds. Meanwhile, gassing has been shown to result in gasping and

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head shaking and it can take up to two minutes for chicks to die. In light of this, AWP is currently more 'supportive' of quick maceration as a more humane method of killing, over gassing. However, our party believes it is imperative that research continues to be carried out in this area and for industry practice to fall in line with revised findings on 'humaneness'.

- Immediately post maceration or gassing, chicks must be carefully inspected to ensure they are all dead, and that machinery has operated correctly, killing in the manner intended.
- Since many consumers are ignorant of the above realities of egg production, packaging on all eggs and egg products should provide consumers with adequate information on whether newly hatched male chicks were killed in the making of the product and, if so, by which method. This would allow consumers to make informed purchasing choices in line with their own principles on animal welfare.

An end to supersize animals

Industrialised animal agriculture is engaged in extreme breeding techniques, which result in serious welfare and integrity issues. A humane existence means animals are bred in a natural way.

- High breeding rates must be ended for animals such as chickens, pigs and dairy cows. 'Bloated chickens', too heavy to stand up and double-muscled cows who are unable to give birth naturally must be consigned to the past.
- We seek an end to unnatural and often painful reproduction methods, such as embryo flush, embryo transplantation and hormonal fertility treatment. Permission should not be granted for the development of new reproductive methods, which harm the integrity and welfare of animals.
- The cloning of animals for production purposes must remain prohibited. The import and trade of (descendants of) cloned and genetically manipulated animals from outside the EU must be prohibited immediately and be strictly checked.
- Europe must actively contribute to a world-wide tracking system to stop the trade in cloned animals, their descendants, and animal products derived from clones.
- European identification rules, which oblige the use of ear tags, should be phased out.

Alleviating suffering

The number of animals that are bred and killed in Europe must drastically decrease. The long distance transportation of live animals causes immense suffering and is, therefore, unacceptable. As a matter of urgency, across the EU, we must now begin the process of bringing this practice to an end, working towards the principle that animals should be 'fattened' on or near the farm of birth and slaughtered as near as possible to the farm of rearing. Carcasses and chilled meat rather than live animals may then be

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transported to the desired destination.

With respect to the issue of live animal transportation, our party believes that:

- As long as the majority wish to consume meat (including poultry), the trade in carcasses should be supported over the trade in live animals.
- If animals are transported, they must suffer and experience as little stress as possible.
- Transport times for live animals should be limited to a maximum of two hours. Farms in Member States unable to meet this time limit due to, for example, geographical position and location of slaughterhouses must apply for an exemption with full supporting documentation. No exemption longer than a maximum period of eight hours should be granted.
- We must immediately acknowledge the inability of calves under six weeks to cope with transport, due to their inability to regulate body temperature and immature immune systems. We must legislate now to prevent undue suffering to these vulnerable young animals and impose a time limit of two hours, beyond which no calf under six weeks of age can be transported for any reason.

Transport guidelines

Based on current scientific evidence on animal welfare during transport, the following guidelines should be adhered to in order to minimise fear, stress and injury during loading and unloading of animals:

- For adult cattle, no ramp angle should exceed 20°. The ramp must have a non-slip floor with cleats at 30cm intervals.
- For the loading and unloading of calves, no ramp angle should exceed 4.2°.
- For the loading and unloading of pigs, no ramp angle should exceed 9°.
- For the loading and unloading of sheep, no ramp angle should exceed 20°. Ramps must have solid sides and a non-slip floor.
- The export of live animals between EU member states and to non EU countries is unnecessary, unacceptable and must be ended immediately. The import and transit of animals through the EU, i.e. from countries like the United States to Asia, must be stopped.
- The number of movements permitted per animal must be drastically reduced. The European Union must stimulate Member States to implement a toll on animal transports.
- Until the above principle applies across all EU member states, misleading information about the country of origin of animal products must be prohibited so that consumers can make informed choices in line with their own principles on

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animal welfare.

- Existing EU transport regulations should be strictly monitored and enforced. AWP believes the number of Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) inspectors must increase considerably so that an adequate level of assessment of compliance across all member states can be guaranteed. When member states fail to comply with EU regulations, as they so frequently do, the EU Commission must use all powers at its disposal, including referring the case to the European Court of Justice, to bring infringements to an end as quickly as possible.

Slaughter

The Animal Welfare Party wants to stop serious animal suffering at the time of slaughter.

- We must bring an end to slaughter methods that cause serious distress, such as electrical water bath, which frequently fails, stunning for chickens and carbon dioxide stunning for pigs.
- We firmly believe that, whilst slaughterhouses remain in our society, and frequent breaches of legislation have been observed across many member states, there must be mandatory CCTV cameras in all EU slaughterhouses. In addition, we believe it is of the uppermost importance that the information captured by such CCTV cameras is independently monitored, not least to act as a meaningful deterrent to those organisations and individuals contemplating flouting the law or 'cutting corners'.
- Slaughter without adequate prior stunning should end. Exemptions from stunning based on religious grounds should not be permitted.
- A prohibition should be introduced on the European import and trade of the meat of animals that have been slaughtered without prior stunning.
- As long as animals are still slaughtered without prior stunning labelling should be mandatory.
- Meat, dairy products and eggs should be clearly labelled specifying where the animal was born, reared and, in the case of meat, slaughtered. Misleading information on the origin of animal products should belong in the past.

Health of people and animals first

Animals should be kept in a responsible way. By regionalisation, which congregates farmers, slaughterhouses and meat processing plants, ending long-distance transport and making agri-businesses smaller, the risk of outbreaks of animal diseases will be reduced.

- The European non-vaccination policy should be abolished and preventive animal-friendly measures taken to fight outbreaks of animal diseases.
- During outbreaks of non-fatal animal diseases it must become standard to let the

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disease run its natural course and to let animals recover. Animals should no longer be killed for economic reasons only.

- Strict rules should apply to the use of antibiotics on livestock farms. The preventive use of antibiotics must be abolished. Products intended for human use should not be used for animals.

Fish

Restricting catches

Worldwide, over a trillion fish and marine animals are killed every year. European fishery is responsible for the structural overfishing of European waters. No less than 88% of fish species are overfished and 30% may not recover to their original numbers. Aided by EU subsidies, European fishing fleets also plunder fishing banks outside Europe, for example, offshore Africa. The Animal Welfare Party believes we must:

- Abolish fishery subsidies.
- Continue in our ambition to end overfishing.
- Combat illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing.
- The precautionary principle must be applied to the EU Common Fisheries Policy. Fishing quotas must no longer be set at a level higher than that considered responsible by independent marine biologists. If there is no scientific information available, fishing should not be allowed or considerable safety margins should be incorporated with a very low fishing quota.
- In places where ecosystems and fishing banks are degraded, a moratorium on fishing must be called for to give nature a chance to recover.
- A fishing ban on the most vulnerable fish species, such as eel, cod and tuna must be implemented in the short term.
- The EU should rapidly scale down the overcapacity of the European fishing fleet. The fishing capacity of the fleet should not be any larger than the ecosystems European waters can support.
- Fish that are caught in nets or by longlines experience immense suffering before death. The Animal Welfare Party wants a prohibition on all methods of fishing and killing that involve long-term suffering and an end to slaughter without any prior stunning, such as percussive stunning and pithing.
- We want to stop destructive fishing techniques. Monster trawlers, deep-sea fishing and beam trawls that destroy the seabed with their towed nets should be relegated to the past.
- The existing arrangements to prevent harmful fishing practices must be strictly

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observed. The prohibition on dumping caught fish to catch commercially attractive fish (high grading) must be enforced by using cameras or supervision on board, at the expense of the sector.

- The fishing vessels of ship-owners found to not be observing regulations must be chained.
- The EU must strongly reduce by-catch by imposing a prohibition on non-selective fishing methods. If by-catch does occur and the animals have not survived, they must be landed and deducted from the catch quota, which will be lowered as a result.
- The use of trammel must end since porpoises and other fish are frequently caught in these standing nets, causing them to suffocate.

No fish farms

Fish farms are a new way of factory farming and are no solution to the problem of overfishing: many farmed fish are fed with wild caught fish. They are unsustainable and far from animal-friendly. The frequent use of antibiotics and other chemicals on fish farms further compound these problems.

- As long as the welfare of fish can't be guaranteed and fish farms are dependent on wild caught fish, the Animal Welfare Party seeks an end to permits issued for new fish farms
- A test on animal welfare and sustainability should be implemented retrospectively for existing fish farms. If it cannot be demonstrated that the farming and keeping of fish is taking place in a sustainable and animal-friendly way, it should be prohibited.
- Using a more humane method of killing must become obligatory.
- Cooking lobsters, crabs and prawns alive must be prohibited.

International

Sustainable farming for a fair world

The way in which Europeans consume and produce has a direct effect on the lives of people and animals in other countries. In their quest for cheap food and biofuels, Western countries are capturing more and more land. The Animal Welfare Party desires an agricultural policy that does not harm developing countries. We advocate regionalisation of agriculture.

- European agricultural and fishery subsidies should be gradually brought to an end, creating fair opportunities for farmers in developing countries.
- Fishery agreements between the EU and developing countries must be ended.

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- All existing export subsidies and budgets for export promotion must end. Dumping of surplus products on the markets of developing countries should end.
- Stricter agreements must be made to stop land grabs. Investments in land and soil must meet the criteria of the UN Human Rights Rapporteur on the Right to Food.
- Europe must stop the import of products that affect the living environment elsewhere or involve violations of human rights and animal welfare.
- The same environmental and animal welfare demands that apply to European products should apply to products manufactured outside the European Union. Producers from developing countries should be given assistance to meet European standards and to process their own raw materials into high-quality products.
- The EU must endeavour to secure regional cattle feed production, thereby ending the mass importation of soya and maize. As a result, agricultural land in developing countries will become available to provide food for humans. Ending mass livestock feed production in biodiverse areas should also reduce the destructive impact of this cultivation on climate change and biodiversity.
- The World Trade Organisation should recognise animal welfare as a criterion for countries to refuse the import of animal-unfriendly products (a so-called non-trade concern).

Sustainability ensures food security

People in developing countries are directly dependent on the quality of their environment for their food: fertile soil, clean water, biodiversity and the presence of other necessary resources. The European Union must not jeopardise this.

- To fight the effects of climate change and desertification the EU must promote the recovery of ecosystems and the protection of existing nature.
- The EU must stop the encouragement and export of systems for industrial agriculture, such as super farms and cruel husbandry systems such as 'battery cages' or sow stalls, fertilizers, *agro-toxins* and GM crops.
- Instead, investments must be made in regional infrastructure and agro-ecological agriculture. As a result, food production and food security in developing countries will have a chance to grow in a sustainable way, whilst respecting nature and animal welfare. At an international level, i.e. within the UN Commission for World Food Security, the EU must be a powerful advocate for this course of action.
- Scientific knowledge, new technology and start-up materials, such as seeds, are essential for sustainable agricultural development. The EU must actively endeavour to ensure that patents and other obstacles will not prevent people in developing countries from achieving this.

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3. More nature

The natural world, containing a diversity of plants, animals and ecosystems, is the most valuable thing on the planet and thus deserves to be carefully protected. Furthermore, the diversity of marine and land species are the foundation of our existence. Without healthy oceans and forests there is no clean air to breath. Without biodiversity there is no healthy soil to grow our food. It is our duty to ensure a healthy planet, now and in the future.

Global biodiversity is in crisis: every day, plant and animal species become extinct and the balance of ecosystems is disrupted. The EU must take its share for the blame in the loss of natural resources elsewhere on the planet. Large-scale imports of soya, timber and palm oil into Europe are at the direct expense of tropical rainforests and primary forests, while overfishing by the European fishing fleet is significantly harming marine ecosystems worldwide.

The environment and biodiversity are also under threat in Europe. Almost 25% of Europe's wild species face extinction. Furthermore, most of the ecosystems are so severely compromised they are no longer able to provide their valuable services. This damage also poses a threat to food security and causes the EU to incur huge social and economic losses.

The Animal Welfare Party seeks to increase the protection of the environment and natural world and desires the EU to end its contribution to environmental destruction. We want the EU to lead the way in tackling the biodiversity crisis and not wait until other world players, or non-governmental organisations, take action.

More nature in Europe

Protect and repair the environment

Despite all the fine words about the essence of maintaining biodiversity, in practice the environment is hardly protected at all. European Directives are not adhered to or enforced too late, and some Member States are trying to renege on these agreements in order to prioritise economic development over environmental protection. The EU is currently not meeting the promises to achieve the 2010 Biodiversity Target made at UN level (Convention on Biological Diversity, CBD) to halt biodiversity loss. We simply cannot afford to sacrifice more natural capital for short-term gain. We must ensure EU environmental policies are successfully implemented in key areas of water management, forest conservation, agriculture, fisheries and biodiversity restoration and

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preservation. The Animal Welfare Party believes we should:

- End environmentally harmful subsidies (CAP and fossil fuels)
- Shift to green economies by making resource efficiency, reuse, reduce and recycling a reality
- Give real value to nature (services, ecological value, and 'unused' value, e.g. by leaving certain resources in the ground in areas of outstanding natural beauty or scientific interest)
- Make private investments more sustainable and increase tax on environmentally damaging products
- The EU must draw up a Biodiversity Delta Plan. Subsidies that are harmful to biodiversity should be immediately abolished and biodiversity loss will have substantially diminished by 2020.
- The Biodiversity plan must include steps to avoid the decline of Europe's network of protected areas.
- A robust European Natural Network of corridors should be established so that species can migrate between different areas and ecosystems and populations become more resilient. At least 25% of the land and fresh water surface would be protected, and connecting the Natura 2000-zones would be given priority.
- Everyone has the right to a green and healthy living environment. The EU must stimulate the greening of urban areas with a view to public health, climate and biodiversity. A standard for urban greening should be implemented that, at least, reflects the standard used by the United Nations (48 m² of green space per villager or urban citizen).
- Revive EU's rivers and lakes to ecological health.
- Obstacles in European rivers that obstruct the migration of fish and cause fish fatalities should be removed. New pumping stations and drainage installations must be fish-friendly.
- Existing European environmental agreements such as Natura 2000, the Water Framework Directive and the National Emissions Ceilings Directive (e.g. for ammonia) are required to limit the environmental damage caused by the EU's Common Agricultural Policy. Environmental agreements will therefore not be relaxed, but tightened up and strictly observed.
- The Animal Welfare Party seeks to preserve and protect at least 25% of European seas by designating them as marine reserves. No activities harmful to marine ecosystems will be permitted in this network of natural marine areas, including fishing boats or industrial activities. Important breeding grounds, such as the Mediterranean where the endangered tuna mates, will be closed to the hunting of these animals.

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- Shipwrecks are hotspots for marine biodiversity and will be protected as much as possible.
- Fishing techniques that severely harm marine ecosystems, i.e. deep-sea and beam trawl fishing must be banned.

Room for animals, not for hunters

The living environment of wild animals is consistently diminishing, as humans encroach upon the natural habitat of wild animals. As a result, animals live closer to humans, and are frequently considered a nuisance. In an increasing number of cases, human-wildlife conflict ensues. People will use any means to control animals, resulting in the death of many. The Animal Welfare Party desires wild animals to be allowed to live undisturbed, as much as possible.

- The intrinsic value and protection of the animals must be the starting point for this policy.
- Populations must be given the chance to restore their natural balance if disrupted.
- All blood sports, including recreational hunting, should be banned without loopholes. The trading of products that have been obtained through recreational hunting must also be banned.
- Wildlife animal population control (the necessity of which is frequently questionable) should be carried out by trained, authorised, professional wildlife officers, with invasive methods avoided at all costs
- The EU must, where necessary, assist with resolving human-wildlife conflicts in an animal-friendly way, for example, deterring bears from venturing into human populated areas in Romania, where the bears' natural habitat is shrinking.
- Animal Welfare Party strongly opposes killing methods, such as the gassing of geese, which is currently tolerated by Europe. The existing rules must be strengthened and strictly enforced.
- Snaring and cruel trapping devices should be banned across Europe.
- Hunting tourism must be addressed. In future, European travel organisations should not be allowed to offer hunting trips such as hunting safaris in Africa.

International

Preserving biodiversity

Global biodiversity will diminish further if the Common Agricultural Policy remains unchanged. Reducing meat consumption and a substantial reduction in the use of fossil fuels, fertilisers, pesticides, insecticides and herbicides, and other chemicals are key and the most efficient measures to stop this. Additionally, the Animal Welfare Party would like to see the CAP policy tested against its effects on nature and biodiversity elsewhere. We also want the EU to begin actively supporting the recovery and protection of global

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natural areas.

- The EU must aim towards a reduction in total global meat consumption and should stimulate measures contributing to that end.
- The import of products that are produced at the expense of tropical rain forests, primary forests and other crucial ecosystems should be banned. Cheap raw materials such as palm oil and soya must only be allowed entry to Europe if proven to be produced in a sustainable way, without land clearance or habitat destruction.
- The EU must ensure proper implementation of Timber regulations and close the loopholes in current legislation. The EU must support developing countries in their fight against illegal logging and control of sustainable forest management.
- The EU must endeavour to create a worldwide network of natural areas, on land as well as at sea. To this end, developing countries should be supported with the protection of their biodiversity and environment.
- The EU should take a lead in financing action plans against global biodiversity loss.
- The EU has a key role to play in promoting sustainable water management globally.
- The EU should contribute to climate action in developing countries, and support and implement a post 2015 global development framework that puts environment sustainability firmly at its heart.
- The Animal Welfare Party wants the EU to test the CAP policy against the effects on nature and biodiversity globally. The policy should be changed if it is a threat to ecosystems. For example, the mandatory requirement for blending biofuels must be ended because the high demand for oil seed crops leads to crucial environmental loss. This also applies to the co-firing of biomass in power plants: EU policy must never be the cause of complete forests being felled in order to burn them for so-called 'green' energy. On the contrary, forest growth should be stimulated to encourage biodiversity and to create carbon sinks.
- We want Europe to close its borders to products and processes that involve the destruction of the environment, such as fracking, tar sand oil and uranium.

Worldwide protection of animals

The trade in endangered species has developed into a ruthless form of crime. The lack of compliance with international treaties and political will to stop the illegal trade in endangered species is deeply disappointing. Despite the moratorium on commercial whaling, countries like Norway and Japan still kill hundreds of whales every year. The Animal Welfare Party believes that Europe must make greater efforts to combat these crimes.

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- Wildlife trafficking is a crime. The EU must ensure collaboration between EU bodies and international institutions, and adequately fund the implementation of an international action plan (similar to ongoing plans on human trafficking, drugs and terrorism) to combat wildlife trafficking.
- The European Union must comply with the international agreements on the protection of endangered species (CITES). Member States should be compelled to take measures to halt the large-scale smuggling of wildlife, receive assistance with the inspection of smuggling routes on their borders, and educate citizens not to buy endangered animals or products made from wild animals. Europe should contribute to the protection of wild animals in their countries of origin and support local authorities with tackling the illegal capture of wild animals.
- We want the EU to take a leading role in improving CITES agreements. This means that Europe will take action on banning the commercial hunting of polar bears, opposing the relaxation of trade restrictions on ivory and take a stand against exemptions for trade and transport of game trophies.

Marine animal protection

- The EU must step up the implementation of legislation to protect marine mammals. It should submit a proposal for a comprehensive overarching legislative framework for the effective protection of marine mammals from all threats. We wish to expand the protection of marine animals under the framework of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), which should be reformed to an International Marine Council (IMC). Its remit will include protection of dolphins, sharks, rays, seals, turtles and other marine animals.
- Whatever the outcome of Canada and Norway's challenge of the EU seal ban at the WTO, the commission must stick to the EU seal ban and its implementation
- Europe must actively oppose seal hunting in countries like Canada and Namibia.
- The EU should endeavour to enforce the moratorium on whaling in the strictest terms. Sanctions must be imposed on countries that disregard that moratorium and these countries reported to the International Court. The EU should initiate such proceedings or join countries that have taken steps against this, such as Australia.
- Whale meat should not be welcome in European ports, including if in transit to other countries such as Japan.
- The EU must endeavour to end the slaughter of dolphins in Japan and the Faroe Islands.
- The ban on shark finning must remain strictly in force with (camera) supervision on board paid for by the fisheries sector.
- Europe must also endeavour to enforce a total ban on the catch of (Bluefin) tuna,

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by participating in the International Commission for the Protection of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) and by refusing to conclude agreements with countries outside the EU for the catch of tuna by Spanish and French fishing fleets.

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4. Restricting animal use

Phasing out animal testing

Animal Welfare Party finds animal experimentation morally objectionable. Over twelve million animals are used for research and testing in Europe every year but many of the experiments in which animals are currently used, are superfluous to requirements, don't significantly advance knowledge or understanding and, in some cases, make no sense. Furthermore, animal-free techniques deliver better knowledge about human health. We must therefore phase out animal experimentation with binding targets for reduction, combined with funding and support for alternatives. Animal experiments must be replaced by humane, modern techniques in which animals do not suffer. Whilst animal experiments continue, public scrutiny must be increased.

- The use of primates in animal experiments must end immediately.
- The use of animals for xenotransplantation must end immediately.
- Genetic manipulation (including cloning) of animals must end immediately.
- A deadline must be set to end the “severe” suffering testing category, which may involve such morally reprehensible procedures as forcing an animal to run until he/she becomes exhausted or repeated electric shock treatment to induce a state of ‘learned helplessness’.
- Following the trade ban on cosmetics tested on animals, animal experiments for household product ingredients and novel food ingredients must now be banned throughout Europe.
- Europe must endeavour to ensure the strict observance of the trade ban on cosmetics that have been tested on animals.
- We seek a ban on all harmful use of animals within biomedical research, toxicity testing and education. Only non-harmful use should be permitted. Examples include non-invasive observational or behavioural studies of domesticated species, or non-domesticated species within sanctuaries or the wild; the education of veterinary students via participation in beneficial clinical procedures on genuine animal patients; and experimental treatment of animal patients, genuinely suffering from severe, naturally-occurring disease or injury, when conventional treatment is not effective.
- Immediate, quantitative, binding targets for reductions in animal use should be set in all countries using animals, with the aim of eventually replacing all harmful animal use with non-harmful or non-animal alternatives.
- Criteria to approve animal experiment licence applications should become harder to meet. We want applications for animal experiments to be subject to much stricter requirements, i.e. a prior extensive literature review. Applications for experiments that are not deemed to be of significant importance, such as health

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claims on foods, should not be granted.

- Mandatory, independent ethical review of all experimental protocols should be implemented as a condition of licensing, with ample opportunity for prior, independent and public scrutiny of such protocols.
- The composition of ethics committees must be balanced to allow for more expert animal welfare opinion.
- Mandatory retrospective evaluation should be introduced to assess the degree to which experimental objectives were successfully met, the extent to which animals suffered, to help inform both future research and further experimental licensing decisions.
- Mandatory compliance should be a prerequisite for (public) funding of experiments, license approval, and publication of results, with a range of best practice standards, and each of the 3Rs: replacement, reduction and refinement of animal use implemented before and during experiments. These would include: minimum standards relating to animal sourcing, housing, environmental enrichment, opportunities for social interaction for social species, appropriate use of anaesthetics and analgesics (painkillers), animal handling, non-invasive endpoints, and statistical input during experimental design.
- Experimental duplication happens far too often and is quite simply unjustifiable. We call for mandatory prompt, public sharing of all experimental results, to avoid this sad state of affairs from continuing.
- In the UK, we are supportive of all efforts to repeal Section 24 of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.
- Europe must no longer permit animal experiments for the development of patents and should amend the patent directive to avoid duplication of animal experiments.
- Funding for the further development, scientific validation and implementation of alternative methodologies should be substantially increased. Specifically, more funding and support should be given to the EU Reference lab, ECVAM, so that the validation process for alternatives can be expedited from taking years to months, and for those alternatives to be applied throughout Europe without delay.
- A minimum of 80 million Euros a year should to be ring-fenced and put towards the development of non-animal alternatives. This figure represents a small proportion of the total EU science budget but could play a huge role in ending the use of animals in experiments.
- The EU must establish well-funded national Centres of Excellence in the Development of Alternatives to Animal Use, in all countries where such animal use exists.
- We call for increased, compulsory training and continuing professional development in experimental best practice standards and alternative methodologies for all animal researchers and technicians.

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- The breeding of lab animals and killing of surplus animals must end.
- We believe there is a moral imperative to provide independently-scrutinised sanctuaries, maintained to high welfare standards, funded by industries and sectors using animals, for those animals retired from laboratory animal use, in which such animals shall be housed for the remainder of their natural lives.

Consigning the use of fur to the past

Following the extensive global campaigns of animal protection organisations, the EU decided to restrict the trade in certain furs: meanwhile, a ban has been imposed on the import of dog, cat and seal furs. This is a good first step, but not enough. After all, even within Europe too many animals are still bred and killed for their fur. The Animal Welfare Party wants to end fur production altogether.

- A civilised Europe is fur-free. We want the breeding, keeping and killing of animals for their fur to belong to the past. European fur farms must be closed as soon as possible.
- Europe must close its borders to all fur from outside the EU.
- As long as a ban on the sale of fur is not yet imposed, it must become obligatory to use clear labelling for fur products giving information on the origin of the fur, the number of animals killed to make that specific product and the method by which the animals were killed. This would allow consumers to make informed purchasing choices in line with their own principles on animal welfare.

Culture and traditions are no excuse for animal suffering

The life and welfare of animals is important. Their interests should cease to be subordinate to culture or religion. Therefore we seek an end to the suffering of animals as a result of cultural traditions, 'sports' and entertainment. The Animal Welfare Party believes that:

- European agreements must be amended in such a way that the interests of animals are no longer subordinate to culture or religion.
- Harmful animal use should not be permitted in any type of art, fashion, cultural exhibition or entertainment.
- Bullfighting must be banned.
- Until such a ban is in force all subsidies granted to this cruel industry must end – including the estimated 129.6 million euros per year currently being spent on rearing bulls for bullfighting.
- Turning a blind eye to practices such as collection of lapwings' eggs and illegal bird hunting in Malta, Italy and France must end, and relevant Directives should be enforced.
- Due to the immense suffering endured by thousands of animals in the racing

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industries, betting on racing animals, such as horses and dogs, must end. All organised commercial forms of racing animals must be banned.

- Europe must prohibit games where hares are chased and torn apart by hounds (coursing).
- Pigeon racing and angling should be brought to an end.
- The use of harmful training methods, as seen in some equestrian sports, must be prohibited.
- The docking of horse tails must be prohibited.
- Horse markets must become a thing of the past.
- The use of animals, wild or domestic, in circuses must be banned. The EU should support sanctuaries to relocate former circus animals to live out their lives.
- Europe must support projects providing veterinary treatment to working horses and mules and assist community workers in mobilising equine owners to improve the welfare of their animals.
- Sanctuaries for retired working horses and mules must be supported by the EU.

Zoos become sanctuaries

The exhibition and display of animals in zoos is an outdated concept. In zoos animals are only able to exhibit their natural behaviour in a limited way. This often leads to apathetic and abnormal behaviour. Zoos kill healthy animals who they can no longer use or are too expensive to keep. The Animal Welfare Party finds this unacceptable and believes a change in the purpose of zoos is necessary.

- The number of zoos in Europe should be drastically reduced. Existing zoos should not expand and new animal zoos should not be established. Zoos that fail to comply with the European Zoos Directive should be the first to close. Animals from zoos that are being closed should be given adequate refuge in sanctuaries or zoos with higher welfare standards.
- All zoos should be transitioning towards becoming animal-free zoos or animal sanctuaries.
- Until zoos have ceased to exist, the EU must ensure that all zoos meet and improve on minimum animal welfare standards.
- Existing enclosures should be improved to ensure compliance with the highest welfare standards. Enclosures that house species that are unfit for captivity should be closed. The housing of animals must resemble their natural living conditions as much as possible.
- The breeding of species kept in zoos that are not included within conservation or re-introduction programmes should be banned.
- Conservation programmes in native habitats rather than captivity should be supported to mitigate habitat destruction by urban development and farming.

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- Zoos must serve as a sanctuary for animals who cannot be re-socialised and or rehabilitated in their original living environment or who cannot be relocated for other reasons.
- Dolphinariums, aquaria and establishments that have animals on display must be phased out and new establishments banned.
- Providing shelter to sea mammals in need must be the only purpose of keeping them in captivity.

Welfare of companion animals first

At present, there are hardly any requirements with respect to the keeping of companion animals. Animals that are completely unsuitable to be kept as pets, such as wallabies and raccoons, can be kept and traded with relative impunity. The Animal Welfare Party wants to end this. We strive for a strong degree of protection for companion animals across Europe.

- We must see the introduction of a short European Positive List, specifying the animals that are suitable to be kept as pets here. Animals not included on the list may no longer be kept or traded.
- We want to halt the barbaric and ineffective treatment of stray dogs and cats in Europe. An action plan to tackle the stray animal problem in an effective and animal-friendly way is urgently required. EU funding of Romania's 'Rabies Eradication Programme' must be halted until the stray animal 'Catch and Kill' policy is replaced by a 'Spay and Neuter' programme.
- Across Europe, the EU must support projects to neuter, provide shelter, return stray animals and prevent the dumping of 'surplus' animals.
- The Animal Welfare Party wants to clamp down hard on puppy mills and the illicit trading of companion animals. We are in favour of a European-wide obligation to microchip dogs and cats. This will help fight the illicit breeding of animals and ensure that lost animals and owners can be quickly reunited.
- The EU must ensure a single harmonized legislative framework for adequate welfare of cats and dogs affected by commercial practices.
- The Animal Welfare Party wants to set minimum requirements for the housing and care of companion animals. The solitary housing of social animals must become a thing of the past, as well as the sale of pens and cages that are too small.
- Europe must stop the breeding of animals with extreme external characteristics and other hereditary conditions. Inbreeding may no longer be permitted.
- To prevent impulse buying, the Animal Welfare Party wants to see a limit on the number of channels through which animals can be purchased. Sales through the internet, garden centres, markets and fairs must be banned.
- Europe must ban the docking of ears and tails.

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International

Advocating animal welfare

There is enormous animal suffering worldwide. Outside Europe, more than sixty billion animals are kept and slaughtered every year - the great majority of which live in miserable conditions. The number of animals used in animal research and the fur industry amounts to tens of millions. Numerous animals are victims of hunting, poaching or cruel entertainment - the latter often in the tourist sector. The EU can do something about this, at international forums and through international contacts, by acting as an advocate for animal welfare.

- The EU must actively strive for a Universal Declaration of Animal Welfare to be adopted by the United Nations.
- The Animal Welfare Party wants the EU and its Member States to use diplomatic channels to fight serious forms of animal suffering - for example the use of bears for their bile in China or the transport of live sheep from Australia to the Middle East.
- Animal welfare must be fully integrated into European assistance, development and sustainability programmes.
- The EU must put animal welfare on the OECD agenda. For example, in the next update of the Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, animal welfare must be included.

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5. Living within the earth's capacity

Our planet provides us with clean air, water, plants and raw materials. If we treat it responsibly, we can ensure a healthy, sustainable future for generations to come. But only by following a new environmental policy and changing our consumption behaviour will we be able to remain living within the earth's capacity.

To ensure our planet stays habitable we must halt climate change and environmental pollution as soon as possible. For this reason it is necessary to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect natural resources and use our valuable minerals more efficiently. If each world citizen were to consume the same amount of the earth's resources as the average European, we would need the resources of three planets.

Western over-consumption not only exceeds the carrying capacity of the earth, but also undermines the position of humans and animals in poorer areas of the world. They will be affected first and in the most severe ways by the effects of the depletion of natural resources, land capture, drought and flooding. Furthermore, European companies have been found to regularly violate human rights and be responsible for serious environmental pollution, particularly in developing countries. Often the victims are left empty-handed, without having an opportunity to obtain justice.

The Animal Welfare Party wants a powerful European climate and environmental policy that actively tackles these issues. EU Member States must jointly set ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to make energy clean and renewable, and to improve the quality of air and water. Europe should take seriously its role in maintaining a habitable planet and distribute natural resources fairly, so that future generations of Europeans and those in the developing world get a chance to have a decent life.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions

As one of the richest continents and one of the main culprits of climate change, Europe carries a great responsibility to take the lead in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The measures that Europe has taken have been ineffective. The trading of rights to emit greenhouse gases ended in disaster. In most cases it is more cost effective for companies to continue to pollute than to take environmental protection measures. The Animal Welfare Party wants the EU to limit greenhouse gas emissions and to start working towards an active low-carbon economy.

- The EU will take a leading role in producing global binding agreements on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and on measures to stop global warming.
- We want European greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced by 40% below the

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1990 level in 2020, and 65% in 2030. Europe must be CO2 neutral by 2050.

- The EU should increase efforts to reduce energy consumption at individual and industrial level, whilst also increasing renewable energy production and energy efficiency by 2030.
- The EU should work towards 'one climate one voice' for 2015 UNFCCC.
- Europe must drop the notion that companies have 'rights' and can trade these and harm the climate. The EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) should be abolished and replaced by binding reduction commitments.
- As long as the ETS continues to exist, it must be drastically amended: each year the ceiling should be lowered by 3.5%. A threshold should be implemented for the auction: if an offer stays below the threshold or there is no demand, the rights should be taken off the market. So-called 'backloading' must be halted. The proceeds from the auction should be used as a fund for financing climate actions. European companies should no longer be able to buy emission rights outside the EU.
- Storage of CO2 and redemption of the reduction targets in other countries are not a sustainable solution and should not be included in achieving the European reduction targets (Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation).
- In order to fight climate change, it is essential that we not only look at the energy sector, but also at our food: particularly by substituting meat and dairy products with plant alternatives, substantial climate change benefits can be achieved and the costs of climate change can be halved.

Saving energy and improving sustainability

Europe is still completely dependent upon fossil fuels and nuclear energy. A sustainable, decentralised power supply underlies a healthy future. Such a power supply is not only necessary for the environment and nature, but would also make us less dependent on oil and gas producing countries. Energy conservation is the first and most cost effective step towards a sustainable energy policy. Local and small-scale generation of energy offers great opportunities for the creation of green jobs.

- By 2030 Europe should be saving 50% of the energy consumed in 2014.
- The percentage of sustainable energy should be increased to 25% by 2020, and 60% by 2030. All energy should be generated sustainably by 2040.
- Energy efficient buildings must be the standard. From 2020 onwards, all buildings should be built in an energy neutral way. From 2025 onwards, the built environment should be a net energy producer.
- The EU must implement strict standards for the energy consumption of equipment, vehicles and data centres.
- A European energy label for both electrical equipment and vehicles must be

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introduced. This label should not only take account of the consumption, but also of the entire life-cycle of a product.

- Subsidies towards or discounts on energy taxes for large consumers should be discontinued. Member States should continue to have the freedom to impose an additional burden on non-sustainable energy.
- All investments in energy research by the European Union should, in future, focus on sustainable energy production and energy conservation.
- Biofuels, biomass co-firing and anaerobic digestion of manure are not sustainable forms of energy, but are trends of a derailed agricultural policy. Subsidies should no longer be granted for these. The mandatory blending requirement should be immediately abolished. The import of timber and palm oil for the production of energy must stop.
- Highly polluting fossil fuels such as tar sand oil and shale gas will no longer be allowed into Europe. Additionally, companies including Shell and BP should be obliged to report on the climate and environmental impacts of their fuels.
- We must promote the production of clean energy by setting a ceiling for greenhouse gas emissions by new and existing power plants. The ceiling should be lowered periodically. Nuclear power plants should be closed and the underground storage of nuclear waste resisted.
- Europe must reduce the extraction of coal and lignite. The drilling for shale and coal gas should cease.
- Sustainable energy must be given priority in the energy network. Europe should provide for 'smart grids' to be fed by green, small-scale and de-centrally generated energy. The privacy of users and suppliers must not be constrained as a result.
- The energy market must be drastically reformed and the adverse effects of excessive liberalisation must be mitigated.

Using raw materials efficiently

Raw materials are finite. We must use them efficiently and strive for reuse and recovery.

- Europe must decrease its ecological footprint and endeavour to create a circular economy, focussed on the re-usability of products and raw materials.
- Strict requirements for the design of products should be enforced at European level, so that the products have a long life cycle, can be repaired and the materials easily re-used.
- Large companies should be required to keep records of the raw materials they use and provide concrete evidence of their greenhouse gas emissions.
- Lease arrangements where companies remain the owner of the product and the customer only purchases a service, should be encouraged. This will enable the

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producer to recycle more raw materials and promote the idea of bringing recycled materials into use.

- The Animal Welfare Party wants an action plan to tackle the issue of plastic waste in the seas and oceans. Measures to be taken for this include: elimination of micro-plastics in cosmetics; incorporation of litter targets in the Water Framework Directive, and regulations for manufacturers of clothing and washing machines to restrict the release of synthetic fibres into water.
- Europe must endeavour to reduce plastic bags and unnecessary packaging materials. It should encourage deposits and refunds on cans, bottles, etc., as with biodegradable packaging.
- We want to stop the dumping and incineration of waste and improve waste collection. Regulations must be put in place to ensure new products are created largely out of recycled materials.

Clean air and clean water

Air and water quality are still under pressure. Intensive agriculture, traffic and heavy industry are the chief culprits. Most Europeans are exposed to a higher concentration of particulates than deemed healthy by the World Health Organisation. Surface water is polluted by agricultural chemicals, fertilizers - and increasingly - trace elements of medicines. The Animal Welfare Party believes that everyone has a right to clean air and clean water and thus advocates enforcement of strict standards.

- The precautionary principle should be applied when determining the standards for air and water quality.
- Europe should apply the guidelines of the World Health Organisation for particulates, ozone, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide as strict limits. A stringent European soot emission standard will also be implemented.
- Air quality standards in public buildings, particularly schools, should be inspected and maintained.
- Europe should take measures at source to reduce the pollution of surface water with traces of medicines.

Smarter transport

Traffic is responsible for approximately 25% of greenhouse gas emissions in Europe. The Animal Welfare Party advocates the reduction of road transport and stimulation of environmentally friendly transport.

- A European master plan must be developed to strongly improve public transport, particularly via high-speed trains between main cities. Air traffic within Europe will be pushed back. Officials and representatives of the EU should travel by train within Europe if they are on duty and if the travel distance is less than 500

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kilometres.

- Vehicles should become cleaner and more efficient and Europe be a front runner in environmental standards for vehicles and vessels.
- The EU should make every effort to make air traffic cleaner. The VAT exemption and exemption from excise duties applicable to air traffic should be abolished, flight inefficiencies should be restricted to a minimum and flights to and from Europe should be subject to CO2 taxation.
- The EU should promote efficient and environmentally friendly freight transport. For that purpose it should focus investment on transport over water.

Protecting Human Health

Good health should be viewed as one of our most valuable assets. In an era of rising levels of obesity and preventable diseases including cancer, heart disease and diabetes, Animal Welfare Party believes that the promotion of healthy, plant-based diets, which are also low in alcohol, refined sugars and trans fats must be viewed as the foundation of good health policy. In addition we believe that exercise must be promoted.

Across Europe, we believe that there is much scope for those dispensing advice on diet – medical, nursing and education professionals to update their knowledge on the value of plant-based nutrition and for European citizens to reap the benefits of being better informed on what constitutes a healthy diet. In addition, the Animal Welfare Party seeks to:

- Oppose the EU/US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) which would pave the way for the privatisation of the NHS
- Oppose top down re-organisation of the NHS

International

Distributing natural resources fairly

To avoid conflicts it is essential to manage the earth sustainably and distribute food and natural resources fairly. The extraction of materials imported by the EU harms humans, animals and the environment. Free trade necessitates strict rules for companies. The Animal Welfare Party believes the European Union should endeavour to restrict the use of materials, water, energy and land. We advocate for an international system of natural resource quotas.

- Severe sustainability requirements must be set for the import and extraction of our raw materials. There will be a directive for conflict metals, which we can use to refuse raw materials from conflict areas.
- There must also be stricter regulations for mining companies. These will protect the rights of local populations and warrant the environmental requirements for the extraction of raw materials.

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- Large companies must be obliged to give information about the source of materials used. They should annually publish their profit and loss accounts in respect of humans, animals, nature, environment and climate.
- We want to move away from the voluntary nature of corporate social responsibility (CSR). In addition to a CSR Supervisor there should be clear agreements on the reporting on efforts and results of the CSR policy of companies.
- The EU must stop the export of waste products and toxins to developing countries for cheap processing.

International environmental policy

Current international treaties in the field of biodiversity and climate are rarely observed. The time of being able to live without such obligations is past. The joint responsibility that countries carry for keeping the earth habitable must be translated into firm, enforceable agreements. The EU must lead the way and set a good example, not hindering Member States in achieving their ambitions.

- The European Union must act to fight conflicts, violations of human rights and environmental destruction worldwide.
- At UN level, the EU must do everything to achieve a far-reaching agenda for sustainable development - with ambitious sustainability demands that apply worldwide and are based on human rights, planetary limits and respect for animals and nature.
- The European Union can conduct international negotiations as a block, but only with a democratically determined mandate. The European Union should be in the forefront with ambitious arrangements in international environmental agreements.
- In order to achieve results at international conferences, the European Union should form coalitions with other countries to set ambitious international environmental targets. These coalition countries should implement the aimed objectives themselves, regardless of the outcome of the conference.
- The Animal Welfare Party wants to incorporate intermediate targets in future climate, environmental and nature treaties, which countries will have to account for.
- International treaties and agreements about environment, climate, biodiversity, human rights and corporate responsibility should be converted into binding regulations as soon as possible, both at EU level and that of the Member States.
- The Animal Welfare Party advocates that European Member States invest in climate action in developing countries, on top of the official development cooperation budgets.
- The EU should promote the incorporation of an International Environmental Court

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to settle environmental conflicts.

- Europe should establish a well-functioning complaints mechanism and offer assistance to victims of environmental or human rights offences to obtain justice. The EU should warrant a well-functioning duty of care and liability for companies and directors. Victims from outside the Union should also be given the opportunity to obtain justice within the EU.
- The EU must set out the principle that each country has a duty to protect humans against exploitation and theft by companies, not only in their own country, but also from outside.

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6. The crisis as an opportunity

Economics should be about what we can afford. Not only financially, but also ecologically and socially. We can't exceed the limits of the earth. Everyone has a right to his or her fair share - including vulnerable groups: deprived people, people in developing countries and the animals that populate the earth alongside us. The economic crisis, the euro crisis, the banking crisis and uncontrollable consumerism are urgent reasons to change direction towards a fair and green economy.

Back to 'business as usual' is no longer an option. Continuous economic growth is an illusion in a world of finite reserves and ecosystems with a limited carrying capacity. Yet Europe is blinded by economic growth. This is even enshrined in the European constitution: production increase is the main goal of the European policy. A consequence of this obsession for more is that citizens have been moved into the background. Humans are pushed into the role of consumers and animals are perceived only as a product or commodity. We live in a bubble, disengaged from the real economy that is based on the value of natural and human capital.

The need for more led to the ill-considered introduction of the euro. Warnings were given previously about the danger of the introduction of a shared currency to countries that did not maintain a single economy. But politicians turned a deaf ear: they were blind-sighted by the economic growth that the euro might lead to. Now that the problems have emerged, a far-reaching political unification is being forced through without democratic legitimacy. The Animal Welfare Party believes that political cooperation cannot be forced.

Not more prosperity, but a better quality of life - that should be the compass to European cooperation. The current economic crisis and the related climate and biodiversity crisis are an opportunity to take stock and shift the focus to those things that really matter: a healthy living environment and more emphasis on social relations. But also taking more account of the impact that our way of consuming and producing has on the lives of others around the world. By focusing on a sustainable economy we will create green and fair jobs that will contribute to a better society.

Measuring prosperity in a different way

The EU currently focuses solely on the gross domestic product (GDP) of Member States. For example, the Stability and Growth Pact, incorporating the fiscal regulations agreed, is based on this. But a high GDP doesn't mean that an economy is healthy or that its citizens are happier. Voluntary work and family care are not included in GDP

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figures, whereas, for example, activities that harm the environment are recorded as positive contributions. The Animal Welfare Party wants better instruments to determine the economic course.

- To set the European policy the EU must start to use indicators that give direction towards a sustainable and socially inclusive economy.

Balancing the budgets

If we talk about reducing the budget deficit to three per cent we talk about the monetary budget. The ecological debt that we accrue as a society remains beyond our horizon. However, the reality is that the world's human population is accruing a growing deficit of thirty percent in natural capital each year. The Animal Welfare Party wants a balanced budget for both government finances and the environment. Not one without the other, but at the same time. Care for the environment and nature should not be perceived as a luxury which we can sometimes afford and at other times not, but as something essential for sustainable, economic development, without a focus on growth.

- The EU must no longer exclusively focus on reducing the budgetary deficits of the Member States, but make every effort to reduce the European ecological deficit.
- Investments in an environmentally friendly power supply, in enlarging and protecting biodiversity, in advancing the greening of and making our production chains more sustainable, will strengthen the real economy in the long term. It is important that these investments aren't prevented by the 3% rule of the current Stability and Growth Pact.

Taxing the use of raw materials, making work easier

The Animal Welfare Party promotes a strong greening of the tax system. Instead of imposing tax on labour, we want to impose tax on environmentally harmful substances and activities, and on the use of scarce raw materials. That way, the tax system will produce the desired stimuli for the improvement of sustainability and will stimulate employment. As far as we are concerned, the EU should not impose taxes but it should be the catalyst for green tax agreements between Member States. This will create a level playing field for sustainable entrepreneurs and encourage green innovations.

- We can save billions in Europe each year by abolishing environmentally harmful subsidies. Tax reductions for producers and (large) consumers of fossil energy must end.
- The EU must review its VAT directives to enable Member States to set a low rate for sustainable products and a high rate for products that are harmful to humans, animals or the environment.
- The Animal Welfare Party advocates imposing taxes on scarce raw materials and products that involve major negative environmental effects, such as timber, coal and phosphate.

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- To fight (youth) unemployment European Member States must lower the taxes associated with employment.
- Member States must make agreements among themselves to reach comparable minimum wages. Europe must no longer focus on mass production and should leave its aggressive export strategy behind. Instead, the EU should shift its focus to sustainable production for its own market.

The euro

The introduction of the euro forced Member States with different economic rhythms into a monetary marriage. Despite continuing problems, the euro remains in place. In order to save the currency union, a far-reaching political union of Europe has been pushed through and enormous debts created, over which national Parliaments have no influence.

- The Animal Welfare Party advocates alternative scenarios for solving the euro crisis and wants the EU to examine the possibility of maintaining parallel currencies, and a possible division of the currency union into a northern and southern region. We oppose the enlargement of the Eurozone.
- Member States that are threatened with collapse under their debts must be helped in their efforts to recover in a way that can be carried by the population and is not destructive to animals, nature or the environment. Responsible debt structuring is the starting-point in this.
- The Animal Welfare Party wants exit strategies for Member States that want to withdraw from the currency union. The European Union must support Member States considering such a step.
- The European Union must stop the Emergency Fund (ESM) which allows Member States to guarantee tens of billions of euros without also being able to control how those funds are spent. The budgetary law of national Parliaments must not be affected.
- As long as community emergency funds remain, the supervision of them must be organised democratically. Courts of Auditors at national and European level should play an important role in this.

Restricting banks

The irresponsible behaviour of many banks, characterised by the pursuit of profit and inflated bonuses, combined with failing supervision have plunged the world into a deep crisis. Bank regulation is needed, but the Animal Welfare Party doesn't find the current bank union a real solution. At best, it may help regulate smaller banks but its democratic control is far from sufficient. AWP believes that banks that are 'too big to fail' should be divided.

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- We want banks to be divided into utility banks (payment transactions, savings, local credit provisions) and business banks. In the case of a financial crisis, it will be easier to retain their public functions without having to rescue them with tax funds.
- Member States must retain the power to lay down stricter rules for their banks than agreed at international level.
- Banks must be obliged to make their investments and speculations transparent to their customers.
- From its platform function, the EU must pursue the creation of bank taxes and taxes on financial transactions.
- Banks must not take any risks that are independent from their customers' interests. Dealing on its own account should be prohibited.
- We should be working towards a move away from complex financial products.

International

Trading responsibly

Human and animal rights and sustainability must not have to give way to economic short-term interests. Developing countries often bear the costs, but don't reap the benefits of global free trade. We want to improve the position of developing countries in world trade and make the world economy more regionally-oriented. The Animal Welfare Party opposes free trade agreements because they undermine democracy and can have major negative consequences for the environment, animal welfare, public health and for freedom of choice and privacy of consumers.

- The EU must promote amending the terms and conditions of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) so that social values become a decisive factor for world trade.
- The same environmental and welfare requirements should apply to products that enter the EU as to those produced within. Support should be given to producers in developing countries to meet European environmental and welfare requirements.
- There should be no free trade at the expense of the environment, animal welfare, food security, health, human rights and privacy. The EU must not enter into new free trade agreements and must cancel the ongoing negotiations with the United States, Canada, and Japan amongst others.
- Existing free trade agreements must be reviewed. We reject investment treaties which enable companies to file claims against regulations that have been democratically set.

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- EU Member States must obtain more scope to reject products that have been produced at the expense of humans, animals and the environment.
- Developing countries should have the possibility to (temporarily) close their markets to imports from the West so that they can strengthen their own economy. The EU should support developing countries to process their products for export, so that they can create the added value instead of just exporting the raw materials. Existing barriers to trade, such as import rates, which complicate the export of (processed) products by developing countries to the EU should be abolished.
- The EU must endeavour to ensure developing countries obtain more influence on the policies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. We want these institutions to become transparent and democratic.
- European regulations must be introduced to prevent tax evasion and avoidance by businesses. The EU must help developing countries receive the taxes that they are entitled to and oblige businesses to provide transparent information on the taxes they have paid.

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7. A fair Europe

The earth offers enough for everyone's need, but not for everyone's greed. We want a Europe that will be at the service of humans and animals. Compassion and sustainability should serve as a guide. Support to the poorest and to victims of hunger and violence is a matter of civilisation. Human rights are there to be fulfilled. To this end, European cooperation is needed where useful and Member States should retain control where needed. The Animal Welfare Party wants a European Union that is democratic and controllable, and in which the voice of the citizen is heard. A Europe like that will tackle issues requiring joint solutions, but will allow Member States to take decisions in policy areas where a European policy would do more harm than good.

The current state of the European Union is far removed from our vision without involving its citizens; an ever growing European public administration has been established. The EU lacks democratic support, was enlarged with countries that were not ready and created a single currency as if the EU were a single nation state. Together with an ambiguous economic and political policy, the crisis that was the result of this has resulted in more powers being relinquished to Brussels.

Too much European decision-making is the result of negotiations held behind closed doors, of non-transparent bureaucracy, and hidden lobbying by the business sector. The unbalanced pursuit of complete free trade between Member States, with as few regulations as possible, is at the expense of animals, nature and the environment. Billions of euros are spent on subsidies that run counter to the general interest of Europe's citizens.

Brussels' powers are not needed for many policy areas, and cooperation between Member States can be improved by giving the European Union a platform function on which sound ideas and experiences are elaborated and shared. The question here is not whether to be pro Europe or anti Europe. Nor is it more Europe or less Europe. What we need is a different type of European cooperation. The Animal Welfare Party first wants to aim for a more effective functioning of the current EU before further integration can be discussed. We want better cooperation within Europe without the further expansion of EU powers.

Endless economic growth on a finite planet is impossible and can therefore no longer be the starting-point of European policy. We want the existing European Treaties to be reviewed in the interest of the change of course needed for compassion and sustainability. In that Europe the voice of the citizen will be heard, animal rights will be

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self-evident and it will not be the survival of the strongest at the expense of the weakest.

Meaningful cooperation

No political or fiscal union

Europe is not a federal state and it is not desirable or necessary to strive for that. A clearer definition of Brussels' authority is of great importance.

- The EU should not be granted new powers. Any plans to do so should be put to a referendum within the Union.
- Member States should keep full control of their own budgets. The competence of national Parliaments to make decisions on behalf of the population about the collection and spending of tax revenue must not be affected.
- We reject proposals to set up a European Public Ministry, a European army, or European pension schemes. Such arrangements are better handled at a national level.
- National Parliaments should obtain more scope to halt the involvement of Brussels. We want to strengthen the current procedure to determine if the EU may interfere with the functioning of Member States.
- Enlargement of the European Union is not sensible as long as the Union does not function democratically. The Animal Welfare Party disagrees with the admission of new Member States under the current circumstances.
- The Animal Welfare Party is against Brussels exerting pressure on Member States to privatise public resources such as drinking water, or to liberalise public services such as public transport.
- Europe should not force Member States into exploiting their natural resources at the expense of the environment.

A stronger and smaller Parliament

The voice of the citizen is, at present, insufficiently heard in European decision-making. The current European electoral system offers little room to people from the various different strata of society to express themselves. The composition of the European Parliament does not adequately reflect society. Additionally, the European Parliament has little say. For example, it is not competent to hold European governments accountable or make them stand down on behalf of the citizens if they have failed.

- The European Commission should become smaller. Not every Member State needs to have its own Commissioner.
- There is no desire for permanent political representatives of the Union. We don't want a 'president' or 'minister of foreign affairs' for Europe. Such positions will hinder democratic control and prejudice the sovereignty of countries.

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- The European electoral system must undergo fundamental change. There should be international electoral lists so that the citizens of one Member State can vote for a candidate from another Member State. This will ensure a better representation of the various political streams in the European Parliament and Parliament itself can be made smaller.
- The European Parliament should be granted additional powers to allow for a more democratic and transparent decision-making process. This will mean, among other things, that the people's representatives will have the right of initiative, are able to exercise control in all EU policy areas and can correct the European Commission, making it step down if needed.
- The costly and polluting movement between Brussels and Strasbourg must cease. The European Parliament must, in future, only meet in Brussels.
- Salaries and expense allowances of members of the European Parliament should be brought in line with those of parliamentarians in the EU Member States themselves.

Transparency and democracy

The links between Brussels and the business sector are too close. Lobbyists have too much influence, while citizens are largely kept on the side-lines. Moreover, the decision-making often takes place behind closed doors, which makes democratic control impossible. The Animal Welfare Party wants Europe to start operating transparently and democratically.

- Meetings of the line ministers of the various Member States (Councils) must become public, as well as those of the prior administrative coordination (COREPER).
- There must be an extensive and obligatory Lobby Register. Not only for visits of lobbyists to members of the European Parliament, but also for visits to the European Commission and to officials.
- A Gift Register must be created.
- In future, for legislative proposals, the European Commission should clarify in what way any representatives have had influence on the formation of the policy.
- To prevent conflicts of interest, there should be stricter regulations for members of the European Parliament. They should be transparent about which interests they represent and which lobbyists they meet. Nor should members of the European Parliament have (paid) side-line jobs that may result in conflicts of interests, and definitely not if that side-line job involves lobbying.
- We want to have real open government. Citizens and organisations should be able to easily obtain an insight into proposals and decisions. All European institutions should be covered by a more stringent Government Information Act.

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- There should be stricter rules for staff appointments and employees of consultancy bodies and implementing organisations in Brussels, such as the EFSA. We want to stop the revolving door system where people from the business sector work for Brussels for a few years to shape policy for the benefit of their business and then return to their former employer.
- The national Parliaments and the European Parliament must have more opportunities to liaise with the European Commission before entering into agreements with countries outside the EU. Evaluations from previous agreements, such as the fishery agreements with African countries, should be made public. The same applies to the negotiating mandates for free trade agreements.
- We want to improve the citizens' initiative (ECI) so that citizens can put items on the EU agenda that they find important - in all areas.

The costs of Europe can be reduced

The budget of the European Union amounts to more than 960 billion euros for 2014-2020, money that has to be supplied by taxpayers of the EU's Member States. The Animal Welfare Party finds many European subsidies and funds unnecessary and wants Brussels to firmly tighten its belt.

- The European multi-annual budget works like a credit card: the EU always spends more than budgeted, resulting in Member States having to pay more than agreed. The Animal Welfare Party finds this unacceptable and wants to abolish the flexible multi-annual framework.
- Livestock and fisheries subsidies account for most of the expenditure of the EU and must be re-directed into plant-based agriculture as soon as possible with a view to eventual cessation.
- It is not necessary for the EU to conduct regional policies. Member States are able to conduct those themselves. Therefore Structural Funds are not necessary and by abolishing the Structural Policy we will save one third of the EU Budget.
- The Animal Welfare Party wants the high salaries of EU officials and European Commissioners to drop significantly.
- There must be a more robust response to fraud.

Fundamental rights, culture and privacy

Privacy and freedom

The Animal Welfare Party endorses the privacy of citizens. It's an illusion to think that society can be made safer by taking away people's privacy. We have great concerns about the lack of protection against the curiosity of intelligence services and want Europe to stop cooperating in unjustified privacy violations.

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- The gathering and recording of information on European citizens and businesses by US intelligence services is unacceptable. The EU must take measures to halt these privacy violations as soon as possible and to avoid new surveillance practices.
- The EU must protect personal information at the highest level. Police, judicial authorities and intelligence services should only ask for information from companies about citizens when there is a concrete suspicion of wrongdoing which is verified by a court. Citizens must have better insight into the information that is held on them and better opportunities to have their information removed from data systems. Businesses should report on the number of times that they were obliged to give information to judicial authorities.
- A notification obligation in relation to data leaks must be enforced. Businesses must also be obliged to notify the concerned citizens themselves of the leaking of their information. Hackers that expose security flaws should be protected.
- Any European policy in the field of data interception, gathering and recording of the information of citizens should be sharply reviewed in the interest of privacy. This would end the retention obligation for telephone and internet records, passing on passenger data to the US, inspection of European bank transactions by the US and compulsory fingerprinting in travel documents.
- New policy and legislative proposals should be tested for their impact on privacy. If privacy protection is compromised, proposals should be amended or abolished.
- Citizens have a right to be able to access an internet without filters, blockages or suspension of specific data flows by providers. We want to legally warrant net neutrality.
- Cyber security will not be achieved by violating fundamental rights. Investigation institutions should not be permitted to explore the computers or drives of EU citizens if there is no significant reason, as verified by court, for such an exploration.
- European institutions should work, where possible, with open source software and open standards.

Free press, culture and sciences

A free press, the arts and independent science enrich human life: they inspire us to think, enlarge our knowledge, deepen our insights, activate our emotions, stimulate creativity, touch us, and distress us. They are essential for a democratic society. The Animal Welfare Party does not want free expression to be hindered by the EU, but it should support it from the platform function it fulfils.

- The EU must fight concentrations of power and conflicts of interest between the media and politics. It must endeavour to support the free press in all Member

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States and ensure the legal protection of journalistic sources.

- The Animal Welfare Party wants copyrights and copyright contract rights to strengthen the creator's position and extend the freedom of information.
- EU regulations must not prevent Member States from promoting free media and culture. The VAT Directive must be amended so that Member States can choose to maintain low VAT rates for digital books, magazines and newspapers.
- The EU should promote the distribution and accessibility of literature by investing in translations and digitalisation.
- The EU should offer Member States support to protect their cultural heritage.
- Scientific publications must be freely accessible, as far as possible.
- The exchange of scientists and students deserves to be stimulated, by, amongst other things, the extension of the Erasmus Grants System.

Equal opportunities for everyone

The European Union stands for equal rights of all citizens in its Member States. Discrimination is unacceptable on whatever grounds. We are worried about the free access of migrant workers, as it may make the position of workers from new Member States vulnerable and create a pattern of problems that is hard to break. To avoid exploitation and displacement, we advocate regulation of labour migration.

- European Member States should be encouraged to acknowledge the civil status of their mutual citizens. The fact that someone is married to someone of the same sex must not be a cause for any discrimination in any Member State.
- The EU must strive to eliminate differences between women and men in the employment market. It should set a good example by ensuring better representation of women and minorities in senior European positions.
- The free accession of migrant workers from countries like Poland has led to the exploitation of workers, displacement in the employment market, and problems with housing shortages. These problems have undermined solidarity among other European citizens. To avoid further problems, we are supportive of the exploration of regulation of the accession of migrant workers from new Member States.
- Europe must promote the equal rights of people with disabilities. Public facilities, public institutions and transport should be accessible to all, including those using wheelchairs and assistance dogs.

International

Investing in development

The Animal Welfare Party wants Europe to discontinue with policies that cause harm in

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other parts of the world. Instead we want investment in the potential of developing countries. Sustainability, animal welfare, education, health, children's rights and the equal treatment of men and women are key to this process.

- The EU must stop the import of products that affect living environments elsewhere in the world and that involve land capture and other violations of human rights.
- The Animal Welfare Party wants EU Member States to strive for spending one per cent of their Gross Domestic Product on development aid. This aid should not be bound to the purchase of certain goods or services.
- Development aid should focus on strengthening the position of vulnerable groups in developing countries, in particular women and children.
- Priority should be given to clean drinking water and hygiene, adequate (preventive) healthcare, access to essential medicines and contraceptives, education, sustainable agriculture and clean energy. The support of emancipation movements will, in turn, support democratisation processes.
- The Animal Welfare Party wants to warrant sexual and reproductive health and rights, this will also contribute to slowing down population growth. The breaking of taboos on homosexuality, abortion and violence against women, reduction of maternal mortality and the promotion and provision of contraceptives are spearheads in development policies.
- Aid should be focused on the interests of humans, animals, and the environment in that part of the world, and not on the interests of the industry sector in this part of the world.
- EU Member States should be able to work better together in the field of development cooperation than is the case now and will combine and direct their knowledge and experiences. This way, developing countries will have to perform fewer administrative operations and development cooperation will become more effective.
- At UN level, the EU must do everything to achieve a far-reaching post-2015 agenda for sustainable developments - with ambitious sustainability demands that apply worldwide and are based on human rights, planetary limitations and respect for animals and nature.

Defending human rights

Human rights are more important than trade. European companies violate environmental and human rights on a regular basis. Often the victims are left empty-handed, without having an opportunity to obtain justice. Moreover, one billion citizens in fragile states are threatened by violence and structural injustice. These humans partly depend on our support for their safety and the protection of their human rights. Victims

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of war and violence, oppression and persecution, hunger, climate change and natural disasters deserve to be helped.

- Human rights – including the right to food and water – and sustainable development must be the test of European policy. Proposals for new European policy must, as standard, provide an appendix explaining the impact of the policy on the environment, biodiversity, human rights, animal welfare and developing countries.
- The European Union must warrant a well-functioning complaints mechanism and offer assistance to victims of environmental or human rights offences seeking to obtain justice. The EU must warrant a well-functioning duty of care and liability of companies and directors. Victims from outside the EU who have suffered environmental harm or the violation of their human rights must also be given the opportunity to obtain justice within the EU.
- The EU will not search for trade outlets in countries where human rights are not safeguarded.
- The EU will openly protest, without reservation, against violations of human rights anywhere in the world – even if it does business with those countries. The curtailing of trade is one of the instruments that can be used to put pressure on the countries concerned.
- The EU will offer to help Member States on the borders of the EU to fight the trafficking and smuggling of human beings.
- The need to provide humanitarian aid to refugees, both in the EU and in their own region, should be self-evident. Member States must mutually make commitments thereto.
- The EU must ensure that Member States provide a fair asylum procedure and humane hosting of refugees. Fundamental rights, such as access to medical care, will also apply to people without a residential permit.
- Veganism has been a protected belief since 1993, as a human right under Article 9 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights. Animal Welfare Party will strive for this right to be respected within the UK and across the EU.

Limits on weapons

'War Never Again' was an important motive for establishing the European Union. The Animal Welfare Party wants Europe to also apply that rationale to its weapons policy.

- The EU must endeavour to achieve compliance with treaties against land mines and cluster munitions and for worldwide regulation of the weapons trade.
- Europe must be at the forefront in the development of an international legal framework for the regulation of the use of armed unmanned planes (drones).

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- The arms export policy must be tightened so that no more weapons will be supplied from the EU to repressive and authoritarian states which violate human rights.
- A blacklist must be created for countries and businesses to which no intermediary products or components of chemical, nuclear and bacteriological weapons may be supplied.
- The EU will work on a universal prohibition on the use of every form of uranium in (conventional) weapons and will promote a comprehensive prohibition on nuclear weapons.
- Nuclear weapons still present on EU soil must be removed as soon as possible.