Keeping of animals in zoos: minimum standards. Council Recommendation

1995/0333(SYN) - 29/03/1999 - Final act

PURPOSE: Council Directive laying down basic rules regarding the keeping of wild animals in zoos. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Directive 1999/22/EC relating ti the keeping of wild animals in zoos. CONTENT: The objectives of this Directive are to protect wild fauna and to conserve biodiversity by providing for the adoption of measures by Member States for the licensing and inspection of zoos in the Community, thereby strengthening the role of zoos in the conservation of biodiversity. The Directive provides a definition of a 'zoo' and lays down requirements applicable to zoos. The latter include conservation measures such as: - participating in research from which conservation benefits accrue to the species, - promoting public education and awareness in relation to the conservation of biodiversity, - accommodating animals under conditions which aim to satisfy the biological and conservation requirements of the individual species, - preventing the escape of animals in order to avoid possible ecological threats to indigenous species and preventing intrusion of outside pests and vermin, - keeping up to date records on the zoo's collection appropriate to the species recorded. Member States are required to adopt measures for licensing and inspection of existing and new zoos that ensure that the above conservation measures can be implemented. Every zoo shall have a license within four years after the entry into force of this Directive or, in the case of new zoos, before they are open to the public. Compliance with the conditions shall be monitored inter alia by means of regular inspections and appropriate steps shall be taken to ensure such compliance. The Directive also provides for measures to be taken in the event of the closure of zoos. The competent authority will ensure that the animals concerned are treated or disposed of under conditions which the Member State deems appropriate and consistent with the purposes and provisions of this Directive. Member States are required to designatye competent authorities for the purposes of this Directive. Member States shall determine the penalties applicable to breaches of the national provisions adopted pursuant to this Directive. The penalties shall be effective, proportionate and dissuasive. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 09.04.1999. Member States shall transpose this Directive no later than 9 April 2002.