Basic information

2015/2957(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on a new animal welfare strategy for 2016-2020 **Subject** 3.10.04.02 Animal protection	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development		
European Commission	**Commission DG**	**Commissioner**	
	Health and Food Safety	ANDRIUKAITIS Vytenis Povilas	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
23/11/2015	Debate in Parliament		
26/11/2015	Decision by Parliament	T8-0417/2015	Summary
26/11/2015	Results of vote in Parliament		
26/11/2015	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2015/2957(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Debate or resolution on oral question/interpellation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142-p5
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AGRI/8/04960

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Motion for a resolution		B8-1278/2015	24/11/2015	
Motion for a resolution		B8-1279/2015	24/11/2015	
Motion for a resolution		B8-1280/2015	24/11/2015	
Motion for a resolution		B8-1281/2015	24/11/2015	
Motion for a resolution		B8-1282/2015	24/11/2015	
Motion for a resolution		B8-1283/2015	24/11/2015	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0417/2015	26/11/2015	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2016)105	05/04/2016	

Resolution on a new animal welfare strategy for 2016-2020

2015/2957(RSP) - 26/11/2015 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 542 votes to 73, with 23 abstentions, a resolution on a new animal welfare strategy for 2016-2020.

The text adopted in plenary was tabled by the EPP, S&D, ECR, ALDE, GUE/NGL, Greens/EFA and EFDD groups.

Recalling that animal welfare is interrelated with animal and public health and stressing that the level of animal welfare in the Union is one of the highest in the world, Parliament called on the Commission to evaluate the existing strategy and to draw up a **new and ambitious strategy for the protection and welfare of animals for the 2016-2020 period** in order to build on the work of the previous strategy and ensure the continuation of a framework for delivering high animal welfare standards across the Member States.

Members called on the Commission to ensure an updated, comprehensive and clear legislative framework. They reiterated, however, that under no circumstances must animal welfare levels be lowered on account of administrative simplification.

The resolution stressed that **improving the enforcement of, and compliance with, existing legislation** should be the key goal of all animal health and welfare rules.

The Commission is invited to:

- monitor closely the implementation in the Member States of the EU legislation relating to animal welfare;
- adapt policy instruments or introduce new ones where there is clear scientific evidence demonstrating animal welfare problems;
- be more ambitious in including and **prioritising reciprocity** of animal welfare standards as a non-trade concern in its trade policy and when negotiating international trade agreements;
- promote animal welfare in **third countries** by requiring equivalent welfare standards for imported animals and products, accompanied by strict controls;
- develop, exchange and disseminate **scientifically based best practices** and to support innovation and research on the development of new animal welfare techniques and technologies.
- Parliament underlined the importance of **funding for the common agricultural policy** which is adequate and compatible with the level of our ambitions, in order to prevent the relocation of production and trade to countries and continents with lower animal welfare standards.

Lastly, Members stressed that this **European strategy should not further increase the existing burden** and stressed the need to ensure stability and predictability of investments in the sector, while ensuring fair competition internationally.