

Basic information	
<b>2021/2633(RSP)</b> RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects Resolution on the European Citizens' Initiative 'End the cage age' <b>Subject</b> 1.20 Citizen's rights 3.10.04.02 Animal protection	Procedure completed

Key players				
European Parliament	<b>Committee responsible</b>		<b>Rapporteur</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
	AGRI	Agriculture and Rural Development	LINS Norbert (EPP)	29/04/2021
			Shadow rapporteur DE CASTRO Paolo (S&D) DECERLE Jérémy (Renew) GUERREIRO Francisco (Greens/EFA) JURGIEL Krzysztof (ECR) HAZEKAMP Anja (The Left)	
European Commission	<b>Commission DG</b>		<b>Commissioner</b>	
	Health and Food Safety		KYRIAKIDES Stella	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
10/06/2021	Decision by Parliament	T9-0295/2021	Summary
10/06/2021	Debate in Parliament		
10/06/2021	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
<b>Procedure reference</b>	2021/2633(RSP)
<b>Procedure type</b>	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
<b>Procedure subtype</b>	Resolution on statement

<b>Legal basis</b>	Rules of Procedure EP 228-p8 Rules of Procedure EP 136-p2
<b>Stage reached in procedure</b>	Procedure completed
<b>Committee dossier</b>	AGRI/9/05806

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Amendments tabled in committee		<a href="#">PE692.590</a>	06/05/2021	
Motion for a resolution		<a href="#">B9-0296/2021</a>	07/06/2021	
Motion for a resolution		<a href="#">B9-0302/2021</a>	07/06/2021	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		<a href="#">T9-0295/2021</a>	10/06/2021	<a href="#">Summary</a>
European Commission				
Document type		Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		<a href="#">SP(2021)570</a>	03/11/2021	

## Resolution on the European Citizens' Initiative 'End the cage age'

2021/2633(RSP) - 10/06/2021 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 558 votes to 37, with 85 abstentions, a resolution on the European Citizens' Initiative 'End the cage age'.

**The European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) 'End the Cage Age'** - which received 1.4 million validated signatures from all the then EU-28 Member States - is the first valid ECI for farmed animals. The proposed ECI refers to the hundreds of millions of farmed animals in the EU that are kept in cages for most of their lives. It aims to improve animal welfare.

Given the importance of the ECI but also the lack of action and follow-up to successful ECIs so far, Parliament called on the Commission to ensure the proper transposition of the demands of the 'End the Cage Age' ECI into the current revision of Directive 98/58/EC on the protection of animals used in agriculture, in line with the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork strategy.

### **Phasing-out cage farming**

The resolution noted that the market for free-range and organic animal products is growing in the EU and that alternatives to cage farming are being successfully implemented in a number of Member States. Alternative systems should therefore be developed, improved and promoted.

In particular, the Commission is invited to:

- develop a more **comprehensive food policy**, in order to support the transition to a more sustainable food system and to avoid, in particular for small and medium-sized farms, further reductions in animal production and its further concentration;
- **propose a revision of Council Directive 98/58/EC** which aims to phase out the use of cages on EU farms, possibly with a view to complete phasing out by 2027; this phasing out should be based on a scientifically supported impact assessment and provide for a sufficient transition period;
- **remove bureaucratic and regulatory burdens** to allow farmers to make the necessary structural changes to their facilities to incorporate the new animal welfare provisions;
- adopt a species-by-species approach, taking into account the characteristics of each animal, which should have a farming system adapted to its specific needs;
- propose specific EU legislation on minimum standards of protection for farmed rabbits and put forward proposals to ban the cruel and unnecessary force-feeding of ducks and geese for *foie gras* production;

- **support farmers** in their efforts to improve animal welfare, in particular in the framework of the European Green Deal and the strategic plans under the CAP, in order to avoid a loss of competitiveness and a subsequent relocation of EU production to third countries with less ambitious animal welfare standards.

#### ***Fair trade policy***

Parliament reiterated the importance of including enforceable trade and sustainable development chapters in all **EU trade agreements**. Such chapters should also take account of equivalent production standards, including animal welfare. Members called for all animal products imported into the EU to be produced in full compliance with the relevant EU legislation, including the use of cage-free systems.

The Commission is called upon to: (i) step up its efforts to control imported food products; (ii) reassess trade agreements with third countries to ensure that the same animal welfare and product quality standards are met; and (iii) promote animal welfare at international level.

#### ***Informing consumers***

Members considered that the Commission must help farmers to educate consumers and communicate the high animal welfare standards currently in force.

In order to adapt to changing legislation as well as consumer preferences, the livestock sector should be rewarded for its efforts with direct aid. Members consider that a voluntary animal welfare label would demonstrate the food chain's commitment, from farm to fork, to contributing to the aims of the ECI 'End the cage age', while ensuring adequate pricing.