

Brussels, 16 June 2006

## EU Animal welfare groups demonstration for more animal protection in the EU!

On the occasion of the public debate on Animal protection in the next Agriculture Council in Luxembourg (19 June 2006) Eurogroup for Animal Welfare and animal welfare representatives from all over the European Union will be holding a demonstration outside the Council building calling on Ministers to support the Action Plan on Animal Protection.

**Animal Welfare demonstration**  
**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June from 9hrs to 10hrs**  
**Centre Conference Klein**  
**Rue Carlo Hemmer - Kirchberg Luxembourg**

At the Council, Member States will be discussing the way forward for animal protection in the context of the Commission's Animal welfare Action plan 2006-2010, which outlines the EU's strategy and timetable for improving animal welfare. Eurogroup welcomes this initiative as it addresses the high concern of citizens highlighted by a recent Eurobarometer survey<sup>1</sup>.

"Although the EU has standards for different types of farming, this does not cover all animals reared for food. Millions of chickens reared for meat, cattle for meat or dairy, farmed fish, rabbits, ducks and sheep<sup>2</sup> have no protection whatsoever and continue to suffer due to the intensive way they are kept. Many never see daylight, can hardly turn around in their stalls, are ill or injured, are submitted to mutilations such as tail docking or castrated without anaesthetic. In order to have acceptable levels of animal welfare there is still a lot to do": says Sonja Van Tichelen, director of Eurogroup

The Action Plan is also highlighting other areas where action is needed; the promotion of alternatives to the use of animals in safety testing, the protection of wildlife and the acceptance of animal protection at international level.

Eurogroup considers that Member States should welcome the Action Plan as contributing to the EU's sustainability strategy and the Lisbon objectives. High animal welfare is a benefit for the environment, animal and human health and for EU farmers and industry which can compete with quality products that consumers desire. Any socio-economic impact assessment should also include the positive consequences of having healthy and happy animals.

**-Ends -**

For further information contact Dil Peeling

Tel: +32 (0)2 740 08 20, Mobile: +32 (0)473 33 339 12 [www.eurogroupanimalwelfare.org](http://www.eurogroupanimalwelfare.org) - Eurogroup for Animal Welfare, 6 rue des Patriotes, B-1000 Brussels

<sup>1</sup> Eurobarometer showed around three quarter of all EU citizens consider that their governments are not doing enough to protect animals [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs\\_229\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_229_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> The EU only has minimum standards for pigs, calves, laying hens, transport and slaughter and these do not reflect the latest scientific evidence to guarantee their welfare.