

Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2015/2957(RSP)	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 Health and Food Safety	Commissioner ANDRIUKAITIS Vytenis Povilas	

Key events			
23/11/2015	Debate in Parliament		
26/11/2015	Results of vote in Parliament		
26/11/2015	Decision by Parliament	T8-0417/2015	Summary
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 136-p5
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AGRI/8/04960

Documentation gateway					
Oral question/interpellation by Parliament		B8-1107/2015	20/11/2015	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-1278/2015	24/11/2015	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-1279/2015	24/11/2015	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-1280/2015	24/11/2015	EP	

Motion for a resolution		B8-1281/2015	24/11/2015	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-1282/2015	24/11/2015	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-1283/2015	24/11/2015	EP	
Joint motion for resolution		RC-B8-1278/2015	24/11/2015		
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0417/2015	26/11/2015	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2016)105	05/04/2016	EC	

Resolution on a new animal welfare strategy for 2016-2020

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.