

Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze  
[klympush.tsintsadze@rada.gov.ua](mailto:klympush.tsintsadze@rada.gov.ua)

Head of Ukrainian Parliament's Committee on European Union Integration

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### Secretariat:

Eurogroup for Animals

6, rue des Patriotes  
B- 1000 Brussels

T: +32-2 740 08 20

F: +32- 2 740 08 29

[www.animalwelfareintergroup.eu](http://www.animalwelfareintergroup.eu)

[info@eurogroupforanimals.org](mailto:info@eurogroupforanimals.org)

Established in 1983

Dmytro Razumkov  
[razumkov@rada.gov.ua](mailto:razumkov@rada.gov.ua) [uarazumkov@rada.gov.ua](mailto:uarazumkov@rada.gov.ua)

Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada

Bondarenko Oleh  
[bondarenko@rada.gov.ua](mailto:bondarenko@rada.gov.ua)

Head of Ukrainian Parliament's Committee on environmental policy and nature management

Brussels, 29 May 2020

### Re: Proposed ban on fur production in Ukraine

Dear Ms Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze,  
Dear Mr Dmytro Razumkov,  
Dear Mr Bondarenko Oleh,

On behalf of the European Parliament's Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals, I am writing with regard to the proposed ban on fur production in Ukraine.

We were delighted to hear that a proposal to ban the cruel practice of breeding and keeping animals for the production of fur is under consideration in the Ukrainian Parliament. However, it is alarming to learn that the Parliament's *Committee on Integration with the EU* has concluded that such a prohibition would be incompatible with EU law.

We hereby would like to strongly underline the fact that this conclusion is erroneous. Indeed, various EU Member States have already taken legislative action to ban and phase-out fur farming due to concerns that this practice is inherently inhumane. Austria, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Slovenia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, as well as the departing UK, have already done so, while Ireland is in the process of passing a ban on fur production and legislative proposals have recently been introduced in Bulgaria and Lithuania. Even in Denmark, the EU's biggest fur producer, fox farming has been banned and is being phased-out on animal welfare grounds.

There is indeed EU legislation, namely Directive 98/58/EC a concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes and Regulation No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing, which respectively set down the basic welfare requirements for keeping and killing farmed species, including those kept for fur production (i.e. mink, fox, raccoon dogs, chinchillas and rabbits).

However, there is no statute in the EU Acquis that *oblige*s Member States to permit fur production within their borders. This is a matter for national governments to decide. It is also the reason why so many EU Member States have taken decisive action, or are actively considering taking action, on animal welfare and ethical grounds to ban the practice. Their only requirement is that they notify the European Commission of their intention to introduce new legislation, which allows for a period during which other Member States may comment or raise objections to the notification.

Ukraine did indeed enter into EU-Ukraine Association Agreement in 2014 governing among other things animal welfare matters. This Association Agreement aims to reach a common understanding between the Parties concerning animal welfare standards and obliges Ukraine to approximate its animal welfare legislation to that of the EU. We note, however, that no provision of the Agreement should be interpreted as precluding Ukraine from prohibition of fur production in the territory of Ukraine.

Furthermore, the sale of fur from seals, dogs and cats is prohibited, under the terms of Regulation (EC) No 1007/2009 on trade in seal products and Regulation (EC) No 1523/2007 banning the placing on the market and the import to, or export from, the Community of cat and dog fur, and products containing such fur.

As Members of the European Parliament, we hope that this letter will provide greater clarification on the legal situation in the European Union with respect to fur production. Moreover, we would strongly encourage you – as fellow Parliamentarians – to support a ban on the production of fur in Ukraine. This is a cruel and outdated agricultural sector, which produces a luxury product for which there are today many warm and beautiful alternatives that do not involve animal suffering.

Thank you in advance for your time and for taking our concerns into consideration. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you require additional information.

Yours sincerely,



**Anja Hazekamp MEP**

President of the Animal Welfare Intergroup