

Niels Fuglsang

Member of the European Parliament, S & D
Committee on Industry, Research and Energy
Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

Brussels, 1st of February 2022

Dear President von der Leyen, Dear Commissioner Kyriakides,

Re: Meeting on the oral question related to the EU Commissioner for 'Health, Food Safety and Animal Welfare'

On 10th January oral question O-000001/2022 was tabled by 118 MEPs from 26 Member States, to demand that animal welfare be given greater importance by making responsibility for it explicit in the name of the relevant Commission directorate-general and the job title of the competent commissioner.

As such, the commissioner would be given the responsibility for 'Health, Food Safety and Animal Welfare', which would greatly support both the legislative progress and proper enforcement.

Never in the history of the European Parliament so many MEPs had gathered to support a thematic oral question, which now needs to be included in a plenary agenda by 11 April.

Furthermore, 162 MEPs have already expressed their support to the campaign's demands and 150,000 citizens have signed the #EUforAnimals petitions.

The European Parliament recommendation of 20 January 2022 on the protection of animals during transport also included point 27, which endorsed this call.

Deputy Director-General Claire Bury wrote on 6th January on behalf of Commissioner Kyriakides to the organisers of the #EUforAnimals campaign: "The title of Commissioners' portfolios is decided by the President of the Commission at the beginning of a Commission's mandate and rarely modified in the course of a mandate".

We believe that the laudable commitment of this EU Commission to animal welfare should be continued by future Commissions too, and nothing like having a Commissioner for 'Health, Food Safety **and Animal Welfare**', with the consequent establishment of a dedicated directorate on animal welfare within DG SANTE, can ensure that this will happen.

The title of Commissioners' portfolios is "rarely modified in the course of a mandate". The unprecedented political support for this proposal justifies this change and would clearly show to European citizens that their institutions care about animals as much as they do.

We are aiming to see this oral question transformed into a resolution, but we believe that this proposal can and should find the agreement of both Parliament and Commission to start implementing it through a joint effort.

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Therefore, we are writing to you today to propose to have a meeting with a small delegation of MEPs who promoted the oral question, and possibly the organisers of the #EUforAnimals campaign, before the Commission's answer in the Parliament, with the hope that we will find common ground and achieve together further historical progress for animal welfare in the EU.

Yours sincerely,



MEP Niels Fuglsang (S&D, DK)

MEP Sylwia Spurek (Greens/EFA, PL)

MEP Petras Auštrevičius (Renew, LT)

MEP Manuel Bompard (GUE/NGL, FR)

MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP, FI)

MEP Emmanouíl Fragkos (ECR, GR)

MEP Anja Hazekamp (GUE/NGL, NL)

MEP Johan Van Overtveldt (ECR, BE)

MEP Maria Noichl (S&D, DE)

MEP Francisco Guerreiro (Greens/EFA, PT)