

MAKING TRACKS



**SAVE OUR EU
ANIMAL WELFARE
COMMITMENTS**

GREEN MEPS HAVE STRONGLY CRITICISED the Government's decision to drop key EU animal welfare commitments post-Brexit. Despite Environment secretary, Michael Gove's promise to protect animals, they will no longer be legally recognised as sentient beings. This is an integral piece of EU legislation which was initially brought by Greens in the European Parliament.

KEITH SAID: "Almost 80% of our animal welfare legislation comes from the EU; these hard-won protections safeguard the welfare of millions of animals. I am calling on Michael Gove to stay true to his word and ensure that animal welfare protections will not be compromised as part of the process of leaving the EU."

JEAN SAID: "It is extremely disappointing that the Government is prepared to treat animals with such disdain, and quietly sweep these changes under the carpet. These important EU laws acknowledge that animals can feel pain and experience joy, demanding that policymakers pay full regard to their welfare."

MOLLY SAID: "It is clear that the intensive farming system is cruel and inhumane. Any decision to end the recognition of animals as sentient beings can only further undermine the conditions in which farm animals are kept and, for this reason, must be strenuously opposed."



TOXIC TRADE DEALS THREAT TO ANIMAL WELFARE

Keith has slammed the Government's trade agenda as a new report reveals the rush to sign toxic trade deals post-Brexit will threaten UK animal welfare standards.

KEITH SAID: "The pursuit of free-trade-at-all-costs post-Brexit is the greatest threat to the

welfare of farm animals in the UK. Scrapping EU welfare standards and forcing farmers to compete against cheap imports from countries with lower standards will be an animal welfare disaster. Sadly, it's clear that a race to the bottom on standards doesn't worry the UK Trade Secretary."

BOLD STEPS TOWARDS CCTV IN SLAUGHTERHOUSES

After years of campaigning by Greens and activist groups, the Government has finally agreed to launch a consultation on plans to make CCTV mandatory for slaughterhouses in England.

In September, Green MEPs responded to the Defra consultation. **JEAN SAID:** "This

progress is encouraging, but long overdue. We are demanding that an adequate number of CCTV cameras are installed, and in the right places. It's also essential that vets have unfettered access to stored footage, and that this can be monitored by an external, independent body."

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SAVING VIETNAM'S BEARS

Jean has been supporting campaigns by animal protection groups such as Animal Asia and Four Paws to save Vietnam's bears.

Around 1,300 bears are still being farmed for their bile in Vietnam. They are kept in poor conditions in tiny cages and suffer invasive bile extraction. This has directly impacted on wild bear populations. Sun bears and moon bears are two species that are affected and under threat.

The Vietnamese Government has taken steps to phase out bear farming, and in July announced new measures to eradicate it by 2020. Jean wrote to the Vietnamese Government calling on it to build on these developments:

JEAN SAID: "This is welcome progress - although much has to be done. Farmed bears need to be rehomed in sanctuaries. There must be improved monitoring and enforcement against cruelty and wildlife trade, and protection of wild bear populations."



END DOLPHIN SLAUGHTER IN UK WATERS

Keith, the Green Party's Animals Spokesperson, has said government collusion with massive fishing corporations is partly to blame for the slaughter of thousands of dolphins. A study revealed 4,000 dolphins were killed as a result of fishing off the coast of Cornwall this Spring. **KEITH SAID:** "The number of dolphins slaughtered as a by-product of factory fishing is as astonishing as it is distressing – the bloodshed must be stopped. This carnage is

just one of the problems with the UK Government's insistence on handing over the vast majority of the country's fishing quota to massive corporations."

"Yet, post-Brexit, instead of promising a sea change in Britain's fishing industry and a necessary shift in support towards local fishing communities and small-scale, sustainable activities, the Government has promised an intensive fishing free-for-all – putting even more dolphins at risk."

DISMAY AT INHUMANE BADGER CULL EXTENSION

Greens are dismayed that further badger culls have been given the go ahead in Gloucestershire and Somerset, under the pretext of 'preventing the spread of bovine TB'. However, an Independent Expert Panel in 2013 appointed by the government concluded the culls were 'ineffective and inhumane'.

MOLLY SAID: "It beggars belief that the Government continue with this cruel policy, which was fully rejected by the independent panel that the Government itself

appointed. In an area like the South West, where farmers are so deeply affected by bovine TB, we need effective and scientifically grounded policy to deal with this terrible disease.

"The Conservatives should focus their efforts on humane and evidence-based controls and real long-term solutions, such as extending programmes of badger vaccination, investing in developing cattle vaccines and tighter controls on cattle movements."

CHALLENGE TO GOVERNMENT TO BAN NEONICS

Molly, who sits on the European Parliament's Agriculture committee, has challenged Michael Gove to continue an EU ban on neonicotinoid pesticides after Brexit. A recent large-scale study across three European countries provided further evidence of the damage the toxins cause to bee populations.

MOLLY SAID: "I am challenging the Environment Secretary to guarantee he will continue the EU ban on neonicotinoids after Brexit. What clearer example can there be of a commitment to a 'Green

Brexit' than protecting our vital pollinators?"

"Recent results from scientifically sound field studies should be the final nail in the coffin for neonicotinoids. Especially since they were majority funded by the very chemical corporations who have long denied that their toxic products have any negative impact on bee populations or the environment. Greens will continue to push for an extension to the ban on neonics to be made permanent in the EU and the UK."