

Making Tracks



MEPs against animal testing

In February, Green MEPs asked the European Commission for 'the numbers of animals used to test ingredients used in cosmetics for the purpose of assessing their environmental effects, or their effects on workers' health'.

The Commission stated by way of reply that there have been 'no cases where vertebrate animal testing was necessary for a substance registered under REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) and used only in cosmetics'. As far as it goes this is good news, but it only answers

the question in relation to substances used 'only in cosmetics'. It gives no information regarding those substances registered under REACH which may be used in cosmetics, but also have other uses.

Jean Lambert MEP said:

"I will continue to press this issue and seek further clarification regarding animal testing in relation to such substances. My Green colleagues and I will continue to seek full clarity and disclosure regarding any such tests and work towards ending animal testing."

Shockingly cruel ivory trade

The numbers of elephants killed through poaching is climbing. Clearly, urgent and immediate action is needed to stop the slaughter of elephants for their ivory. It is currently estimated that 100 elephants every day are lost to poachers.

Attending a peaceful demonstration outside the Chinese embassy in January, Jean Lambert MEP spoke.

Jean said:

"It is a shocking, cruel and unnecessary trade. The Chinese Government can make a big difference in ending this cruelty, but there's a need to engage with those who work with ivory as well as buyers so that attitudes change – because if attitudes change, demand will reduce."

TTIPing the balance against animal welfare

Greens have warned that 'harmonisation' of standards between the EU and US under the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) deal could prove disastrous for animal welfare standards. The EU recognises animals as sentient beings and legislative measures guarantee minimum standards for animal protection on the farm, during transport and at slaughter. The US however has no federal farm animal welfare legislation before slaughter.

Greens fear the higher costs associated with EU animal welfare standards will lead to the intensification of animal

agriculture on both sides of the Atlantic and a 'race to the bottom' in terms of standards.

Although opposed to TTIP, Greens tabled a series of amendments including a requirement that each party to the Treaty adopt the standards of whichever authority sets these highest. The amendments were blocked by the larger political groups in the European Parliament.

Molly Scott Cato MEP said:

"Trashing our hard-fought-for regulations must not be allowed to happen simply to facilitate a greater exchange of farm and food products."



As the world's leading consumer of ivory, China's role in ensuring the survival of African elephants is crucial. Jean was co-signatory to a letter delivered

to the Chinese Embassy in London and addressed to President Xi Jinping, simply asking for all ivory trade in China to cease.

Riding to the rescue of seahorses

One of the most elusive and endearing sea creatures, the seahorse, is under threat in Dorset. Even though the rare fish species is protected by law, the government has excluded Studland Bay, an important seahorse habitat, from a consultation on Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ).

During a recent visit to the area, Molly Scott Cato MEP called for Studland Bay to be turned into a MCZ, expressing her grave disappointment that the bay



has not been included, as was widely expected. The internationally important sea grass habitat of the bay contains a rich and diverse wildlife habitat, including seahorses, endangered undulate rays and native oysters.

Molly said:

"Studland Bay is a busy recreational area but I believe it is possible to address the concerns of boaters and other leisure

users of the bay whilst preventing disturbance to marine life. There is no reason why Studland Bay could not continue to be a multi-use site which allows for low impact water-based activities, alongside thriving wildlife within the context of a MCZ."

Molly is supporting the Dorset Wildlife Trust in their efforts to ensure that Studland Bay makes it into the next and final tranche of proposed MCZs.



Farm animals are not goods

Keith Taylor, MEP and stop live exports campaigner, recently submitted evidence to Dover Council's inquiry into live animal exports from the Port of Dover.

The inquiry was sparked by a motion calling on the council to oppose live farm animal exports to the continent from the port of Dover and to lobby Dover Harbour Board to grant RSPCA inspectors access to the port during shipments.

Although the trade is currently happening through Ramsgate, the Port of Dover is the industry's preferred

location for exporting farm animals due to the shorter sea distance. The trade involves tens of thousands of animals, such as sheep and calves, being exported for hours or even days, in some cases only to be slaughtered at their destination.

Keith said:

"I am opposed to this cruel and needless trade. There is growing concern about the welfare of these animals and this is an issue that Kent residents, who witness the lorries travelling to the port, have

been heavily campaigning on for many years."

Keith welcomed the final report, which stated that animal welfare is paramount and farm animals should not be treated as 'goods' but as sentient beings. The council made a commitment to put pressure on the relevant agencies to fully enforce animal protection laws and to urge Dover Harbour Board to allow RSPCA presence during shipments, should the trade return to Dover.

Protecting dolphins and whales

Keith Taylor MEP joined thousands of people in Brighton earlier this year in support of WhaleFest 2015.

In March, Keith also hosted the launch of a new initiative in the European Parliament to raise awareness about the exploitation of hundreds of captive whales and dolphins kept in 33 dolphinariums across the EU.

The 'Dolphinaria-Free Europe coalition', consisting of 19 NGOs from 11 countries, is calling upon European citizens, MEPs and national Governments to end captive dolphin shows and interactive sessions which exploit the animals and compromise their welfare.

Addressing Whalefest 2015, Keith said:

"I want to see an end to captive whales and dolphins. To confine these animals, all in the name of public entertainment, is unacceptable. Our ultimate aim is to bring about an end to dolphinariums, however, until that day, there is important work going on to ensure that laws already in place are fully enforced and the tourist industry improve standards for cetaceans."

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