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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Animal Welfare
– Eurobarometer on Animal Welfare
– Establishment of an EU Platform on Animal Welfare
– *Report from the Commission on the state of play*
– *Exchange of views*

In view of the session of the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council of 17 May 2016, delegations will find in Annex a Note from the Presidency on the above-mentioned subject.

Animal Welfare

Results of the Eurobarometer on animal welfare;

State of play of the establishment of an EU Platform on animal welfare

As a follow-up to the discussion on the establishment of an EU Platform on Animal Welfare during the Council meeting of 15 February 2016, the European Commission will be invited to provide information on the latest developments on animal welfare. More specifically, the Presidency would like the Commission to go into the results of the recent Eurobarometer on Animal Welfare and to explain the state of play of the establishment of the platform.

Eurobarometer

On 15 March the European Commission published her 'Eurobarometer survey' on Animal Welfare. A similar survey took place in 2005. The results of the Eurobarometer indicate that EU citizens want better animal welfare. They are available on the Commission website:

http://open-data.europa.eu/en/data/dataset/S2096_84_4_442_ENG

The Eurobarometer of 2005 was one of the developments which boosted the drafting of the Action Plan on Animal Welfare 2006-2010.

EU Platform on Animal Welfare

The Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 15 February expressed broad support for the establishment by the European Commission of an EU Platform on Animal Welfare. This platform could consist of representatives from Member States and stakeholders.

A significant number of Member States were of the opinion that such a platform should focus on the exchange of information and good practices and on the improved implementation and enforcement of the existing legislation. Several Member States indicated that the platform should not aim for new legislation. This indeed is not the intention of a future platform.

On 23 and 24 February meetings with EU stakeholders and Member States took place. During these meetings there was an exchange of views on a EU Platform on Animal Welfare. Again, the idea of the establishment such a platform received broad support, from stakeholders as well. The Commission asked for possible topics to be dealt with by the platform.

During the Council meeting on 17 May 2016,

1. The European Commission will thus be invited to provide information on:
 - a) The results of the Eurobarometer survey on the attitudes of Europeans towards animal welfare, and what they mean in terms of future policy on animal welfare initiated by the European Commission (e.g. with regard to the EU platform and to the strategy for the coming years);
 - b) The state of play of the establishment of an EU Platform on Animal Welfare (e.g. when the European Commission foresees the first platform meeting and which topics will be discussed within the platform).

2. The Member States will be invited to:
 - a) Share their views on what the results of the Eurobarometer survey mean in terms of future policy on animal welfare;
 - b) Suggest three possible topics to be discussed by the platform.
