



2021/2633(RSP)

29.4.2021

DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 222(8) of the Rules of Procedure

on the citizens' initiative "End the cage age"
(2021/2633(RSP))

Norbert Lins

on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

**European Parliament resolution on the citizens' initiative "End the cage age"
(2021/2633(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) "End the cage age" (ECI(2018)000004),
 - having regard to the public hearing on the European Citizens' Initiative "End the cage age" of 15 April 2021,
 - having regard to the motion for a resolution of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development,
 - having regard to Rule 222(8) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union reinforces citizenship of the Union and enhances further the democratic functioning of the Union by providing, inter alia, that every citizen is to have the right to participate in the democratic life of the Union by way of a European citizens' initiative;
- B. whereas acknowledging the importance of ECI in shaping EU policy initiatives and developments;
- C. whereas the subject matter of the proposed citizens' initiative refers to 'Hundreds of millions of EU farm animals are kept in cages for most of their lives, causing great suffering';
- D. whereas the objectives of the proposed ECI refer to 'Cages inflict suffering on enormous numbers of farm animals every year. They are cruel and unnecessary, as higher-welfare cage-free systems are viable';
- E. whereas the shift in housing systems to full cage-free housing systems will require additional investments and lead to an increase in production costs that farmers will have to bear;
- F. whereas before introducing such a substantial shift to fully cage-free housing, the costs of the required transformation both in the short and long term have to be assessed;
- G. whereas to facilitate such a substantial shift, the appropriate financial investment support and compensations for higher productions costs of farmers has to be ensured;
- H. whereas any change concerning the legal obligations for animal housing is to be foreseen, the level of implementation of the respective animal welfare rules in the different EU Member States has to be taken into consideration;
1. Welcomes the Commission's ongoing fitness check of the existing EU animal welfare legislation with the results by 2023;

2. Calls on the European Commission to provide a more comprehensive food policy to support the shift towards a more sustainable food system with the appropriate support to farmers;
3. Calls on the Commission to propose legislative instruments on sustainable farming, in particular concerning animal on farms that are currently kept in cages;
4. Notes that the Farm to Fork strategy supports a more sustainable animal production and the establishment of shorter circuits of food products;
5. Calls on the European Commission to step up its work in the area of animal welfare, notably, in the context of the EU's Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy;
6. Calls on the European Commission and the Member States to assure that effective controls are performed on the imported products as regards the quality and safety requirements and the EU animal welfare standards;
7. Urges the Commission to ensure a sufficient transition period for farmers and livestock breeders once a new legal act prohibiting farmed animals in cages is proposed;
8. Stresses the importance of supporting farmers, who will move to more sustainable farming, by providing adequate incentives and financial programmes;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission, and to the governments and parliaments of the Member States.