

# Article – Animal welfare and protection: EU laws explained (videos)



## **Wildlife protection**

The 500 **wild birds** naturally occurring in the EU are protected by the [Birds Directive](#), whilst the [Habitats Directive](#) aims to ensure the conservation of [rare, threatened or endemic animal species](#) and characteristic habitat types.

The EU Pollinators Initiative was launched in 2018 to tackle the [decline of wild pollinating insects](#), especially bees. Parliament called for a [further reduction of pesticides and more funds for research](#). In a report adopted in January 2018, Parliament had already said [regional and local bees varieties should be better protected](#).

[Whales and dolphins are protected](#) from capture and killing in EU waters. In addition, the EU has always been a defender of the full implementation of the [moratorium on commercial whaling](#) in place since 1986.

An EU regulation [bans the trade in seal products](#).

There are also rules on [trapping methods](#), prohibiting the use of leghold traps to catch wild animals in the EU and setting humane standards.

The EU implements and goes beyond the provisions of the [Convention on](#)

[International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#) (Cites) through its [Wildlife Trade Regulations](#) to ensure trade in **wildlife products** does not lead to species becoming endangered.

In May 2020, the Commission presented an [ambitious new Biodiversity Strategy](#) as part of the [EU Green Deal](#).

## Zoos

[EU rules on keeping wild animals in zoos](#) seek to strengthen their role in the conservation of biodiversity and set standards for protection measures, including appropriate accommodation for animals.

## Animal testing for scientific purposes

The EU has created a legal framework that [regulates animal studies](#) for the development of new medicines, for physiological studies and for testing of food additives or chemicals. The rules are based on the principle of the three R's:

- Replacement (fostering the use of alternative methods)
- Reduction (trying to use fewer animals for the same objective)
- Refinement (efforts to minimise pain and suffering)

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## [Shaping tomorrow: 3D printing and its impact on IP](#)

July 06, 2020 [About the EUIPO](#)

Shaping tomorrow: 3D printing and its impact on IP



The EUIPO and the European Patent Office (EPO) are jointly holding an online conference on 3D printing and its impact on IP.

The conference takes place online from 13 to 16 July, and is free of charge, but registration is required [through this link](#).

The [event programme](#) has been spread across four days, with several short online sessions. You can register for the entire conference or opt to attend individual sessions.

Additive manufacturing (AM), often referred to as 3D printing, is a fast-moving technology which is now used across multiple manufacturing sectors. The conference will consider the challenges that it poses for intellectual property, including in the areas of copyright, patents and design rights.

Throughout the conference, experts – ranging from policymakers, entrepreneurs and investors to inventors and patent and trade mark attorneys – will share their experience and perspectives. It promises to be a lively and engaging event for SMEs, researchers, IP professionals, policymakers and business leaders.

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## [ESMA Q&As – list of questions currently under development](#)

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