

Press release – Stop illegal trade in cats and dogs, says European Parliament



With 607 votes for, 3 votes against and 19 abstentions, MEPs on Wednesday adopted a non-binding resolution demanding action against illegal trade in pets that causes animal to suffer, spreads diseases, and generates high revenues for organised international crime.

MEPs are calling for measures, such as:

- a mandatory EU system to register cats and dogs,
- an EU definition of large-scale commercial breeding facilities, known as puppy mills,
- improved law enforcement and tougher sanctions, and
- encouraging people to adopt, rather than purchase, pets.

Background

An estimated [46,000 dogs](#) are traded between EU countries every month, most of them without being registered. Commercial breeders are abusing the EU's pet movement legislation ([Regulation \(EU\) No 576/2013](#)), intended for non-commercial movement of pet animals, e.g. travelling with their owners.

[Press release – Stop illegal trade in cats and dogs, says European Parliament](#)



With 607 votes for, 3 votes against and 19 abstentions, MEPs on Wednesday adopted a non-binding resolution demanding action against illegal trade in pets that causes animal to suffer, spreads diseases, and generates high revenues for organised international crime.

MEPs are calling for measures, such as:

- a mandatory EU system to register cats and dogs,
- an EU definition of large-scale commercial breeding facilities, known as puppy mills,
- improved law enforcement and tougher sanctions, and
- encouraging people to adopt, rather than purchase, pets.

Background

An estimated [46,000 dogs](#) are traded between EU countries every month, most of them without being registered. Commercial breeders are abusing the EU's pet

movement legislation ([Regulation \(EU\) No 576/2013](#)), intended for non-commercial movement of pet animals, e.g. travelling with their owners.

Press release – More than money: the long-term EU budget is a tool for Europe’s future



Talking about the budget means talking about the EU’s future, MEPs said in a key plenary debate with Nikolina Brnjac, Croatian State Secretary for Foreign

and European Affairs, representing the Council, and Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

The debate on Wednesday came ahead of a special EU summit starting on 20 February, where member states will try to agree on a common position on the next multiannual financial framework (MFF).

Most MEPs insisted that sufficient funding is key to achieve common ambitions such as fighting climate change, the digital and ecological transformation, dealing with the social consequences of the latter, and continuing to support regions and cities, farmers, young people, researchers or entrepreneurs. Implementing the Green Deal with a reduced budget, for example, would mean cutting successful EU programmes elsewhere, MEPs highlighted. Some said that certain EU policies need to be assessed more thoroughly, and that more spending discipline is needed.

In addition, introducing new sources of revenue (“Own Resources”) for the EU and linking the EU budget to the respect of rule of law are key for MEPs.

Click on the names to view individual statements by group leaders, the Commission and the Council presidency.

[David Sassoli](#), President of the European Parliament

[Nikolina Brnjac](#), for the Croatian Presidency

[Ursula von der Leyen](#), President of the Commission

[Manfred Weber](#) (EPP, DE)

[Iratxe García Pérez](#) (S&D, ES)

[Dacian Cioloş](#) (Renew, RO)

[Marco Zanni](#) (ID, IT)

[Philippe Lamberts](#) (Green/EFA, BE)

[Raffaele Fitto](#) (ECR, IT)

[Dimitrios Papadimoulis](#) (GUE/NGL, EL)

[Johannes Hahn](#), European Commissioner for Budget and Administration

[Nikolina Brnjac](#), for the Croatian Presidency

[Catch up with the full debate](#) by VOD

Press release – More than money: the long-term EU budget is a tool for Europe’s future



Talking about the budget means talking about the EU’s future, MEPs said in a key plenary debate with Nikolina Brnjac, Croatian State Secretary for Foreign and European Affairs, representing the Council, and Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

The debate on Wednesday came ahead of a special EU summit starting on 20 February, where member states will try to agree on a common position on the next multiannual financial framework (MFF).

Most MEPs insisted that sufficient funding is key to achieve common ambitions such as fighting climate change, the digital and ecological transformation, dealing with the social consequences of the latter, and continuing to support regions and cities, farmers, young people, researchers or entrepreneurs. Implementing the Green Deal with a reduced budget, for example, would mean cutting successful EU programmes elsewhere, MEPs highlighted. Some said that certain EU policies need to be assessed more thoroughly, and that more spending discipline is needed.

In addition, introducing new sources of revenue (“Own Resources”) for the EU and linking the EU budget to the respect of rule of law are key for MEPs.

Click on the names to view individual statements by group leaders, the Commission and the Council presidency.

[David Sassoli](#), President of the European Parliament

[Nikolina Brnjac](#), for the Croatian Presidency

[Ursula von der Leyen](#), President of the Commission

[Manfred Weber](#) (EPP, DE)

[Iratxe García Pérez](#) (S&D, ES)

[Dacian Cioloş](#) (Renew, RO)

[Marco Zanni](#) (ID, IT)

[Philippe Lamberts](#) (Green/EFA, BE)

[Raffaele Fitto](#) (ECR, IT)

[Dimitrios Papadimoulis](#) (GUE/NGL, EL)

[Johannes Hahn](#), European Commissioner for Budget and Administration

[Nikolina Brnjac](#), for the Croatian Presidency

[Catch up with the full debate](#) by VOD

[Press release – EU-UK future relations: “level playing field” crucial to ensure fair competition](#)



On Wednesday, the European Parliament adopted a resolution providing MEPs' initial input to the upcoming negotiations with the British government on a new EU-UK partnership after the Brexit transition period. The text was adopted by 543 votes to 39, with 69 abstentions.

Parliament wants the association agreement with the UK to be as deep as possible, based on three main pillars: an economic partnership, a foreign affairs partnership and specific sectoral issues. However, a non-EU country cannot enjoy the same rights as a member state and the integrity of the Single Market and the Customs Union must be preserved at all times say MEPs.

Future EU-UK trade relations

To reach a new ambitious free trade agreement, MEPs broadly agree with [the lines along which the Commission has proposed](#) to negotiate. Given the size of the UK's economy and its proximity, future competition with the EU must be kept open and fair through a "level playing field", which means guarantees for equal rules on, among other things, social, environmental, tax, state aid, consumer protection and climate matters.

To maintain quota-free, tariff-free trade relations, the British government should pledge to update its rules on, for instance, competition, labour standards and environmental protection, in order to ensure "dynamic alignment" of EU-UK laws, say MEPs.

Crucial to protect the most sensitive sectors

The resolution also makes clear that to gain Parliament's consent, any EU-UK free trade deal must be conditional on a prior agreement on fisheries by June 2020. If the UK does not comply with EU laws and standards, the Commission should "evaluate possible quotas and tariffs for the most sensitive sectors as well as the need for safeguard clauses to protect the integrity of the EU single market." This is particularly important for food and agricultural imports, which have to strictly comply with EU rules.

Other priorities

The text also contains chapters on [citizens' rights](#) and mobility of persons, data protection, the future of financial services, the situation on the island of Ireland, the role of the European Court of Justice in settling disputes, EU programmes and agencies, foreign policy and security matters, as well as other European Parliament priorities, and [will be available in full here](#).

Parliament also supports the fact that Gibraltar will not be included in the scope of the agreements to be concluded, and that any separate agreement will require the Spanish government's prior approval.

Next steps

The resolution is based on the European Commission's draft negotiating directives, which were [presented by EU Chief Negotiator Michel Barnier on Monday 3 February](#). These directives are the frame that sets out the purpose, scope and objectives for the talks. They also need to be signed off by EU27 member states' representatives in the Council, which is expected to happen on 25 February.