



END THE CAGE AGE

European Citizens' Initiative

The problems of cages



- They severely **restrict** and **confine**
- They **prevent** most natural behaviours which are vital for animal well-being
- The restriction of movement and lack of meaningful enrichment results in pain, frustration, stress and depression.
- Animals develop distressed behaviours, such as stereotypies
- In 21st-century Europe, this treatment of animals is **unacceptable**.

Caging farmed animals

Hundreds of millions are caged in the EU each year.



'End the Cage Age' European Citizens' Initiative



Subject matter: Hundreds of millions of EU farm animals are kept in cages for most of their lives, causing great suffering. We call on the European Commission to end this inhumane treatment of farm animals.

Main objectives: Cages inflict suffering on enormous numbers of farm animals every year. They are cruel and unnecessary, as higher-welfare cage-free systems are viable.

The Commission is therefore invited to propose legislation to prohibit the use of:

- cages for farmed rabbits, pullets, broiler breeders, layer breeders, quail, ducks and geese and enriched cages for laying hens;
- farrowing crates for sows;
- sow stalls, where not already prohibited
- enclosed calf pens, where not already prohibited





The final result



1.4

MILLION
VERIFIED SIGNATURES



28

EU COUNTRIES



6th

SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVE
SINCE LAUNCH 8 YEARS AGO



1st

SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVE
FOR FARMED ANIMALS



170

animal welfare & environmental groups

EU animal welfare legislation



EU law has prohibited some of the worst aspects of industrial animal production and recognises animal sentience:

- Narrow veal crates banned from 2007
- Barren battery cages for egg-laying hens from 2012
- Sow stalls partial ban from 2013
- The Treaty of Amsterdam Protocol in 1997 enshrined **animal sentience** in EU law and requires **full regard** to the welfare requirements of animals
- This principle was transposed into Article 13 of TFEU, 2009

Directive 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998:

- “the freedom of movement of an animal ... must not be restricted to cause unnecessary suffering”;
- “where an animal is continuously or regularly confined, it must be given the space appropriate to its **physiological and ethological needs** in accordance with established experience and scientific knowledge.”

Cage-free working group (#MEPvsCages)



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Member state actions on caged farming



Laying hen cage bans

 Austria	Banned
 Czechia	To be banned (2027)
 France	Ban of any new or refurbished farms with cages for hens
 Germany	Banned (2025)
 Luxembourg	Banned
 Slovakia	MoU between industry, unions and ministry (2030)

Progress for sows and rabbits

 Austria	Ban on cages for meat rabbits. Ban on sow stalls after 10 days after insemination
 Belgium	Ban on cages for meat rabbits & breeding females (2025)
 Denmark	Ban on sow stalls 3 days (2035)
 Germany	Ban on sow stalls (2028-2030) and farrowing crates after 5 days (2035-2037)
 Netherlands	Ban for sow stalls after 4 days
 Sweden	Ban on sow stalls and farrowing crates

Retailers that have gone cage-free for eggs



Hundreds of the EU's biggest retailers and brands – including Danone, Nestlé, Aramark, Lidl and Sodexo – have committed to using only cage-free eggs.



Viability alternatives exist



- Alternatives to cages are a reality and they are used by many farmers.
- Free-range and organic systems enable animals to carry out essential natural behaviours.

European Green Deal and Farm to Fork



Time to transition to a “less and better”, CAGE-FREE approach to animal farming for the sake of animal welfare, human health and good nutrition, biodiversity, environment, climate change and food security



*“The Commission will **revise the animal welfare legislation**, including on animal transport and the slaughter of animals, to align it with the latest scientific evidence, broaden its scope, make it easier to enforce and ultimately ensure a higher level of animal welfare.”*

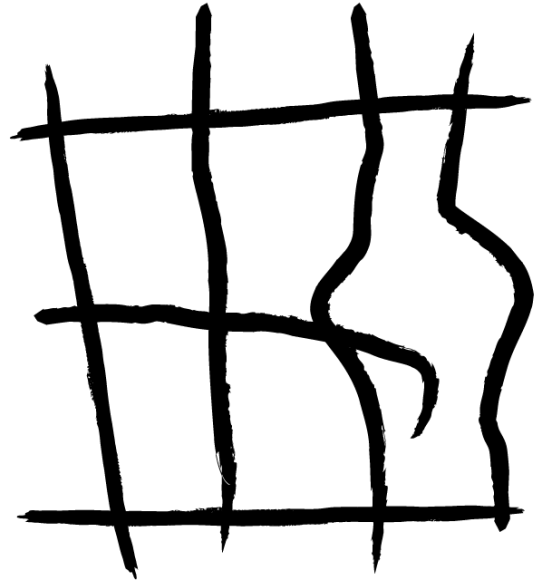
Legislation for a cage-free EU



We call on the EU Commission:

- to phase out all cages in EU animal farming by 2027, reflecting modern scientific knowledge and understanding of animal sentience, and to harmonise national rules phasing out cages;
- to require that imports meet EU standards to protect EU farmers from low welfare products from third countries;
- to ensure producers receive financial assistance to facilitate the transition to a cage-free EU.





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CAGE AGE**

