

Build a better future together

Build a better future together

The European Fur Breeders' Association (EFBA) and the International Fur Trade Federation (IFTF) would like to congratulate the new Commissioners on their recent election to the European Commission.

The new Commission term presents us with an opportunity to introduce our organisations and to work together on issues such as protection of animals and protection of nature, as well as the promotion of long-term sustainability, support of small and medium sized enterprises, consumer awareness and a healthy trading environment:

EFBA is very active on the protection of animals:

Animal Welfare: EFBA welcomes the review of the European Action Plan on Animal Welfare 2006-2010. On September 2009, in collaboration with seven European research institutes and a number of experts from WQ®, EFBA initiated the 'Welfare-quality-like project on fur-farmed species. The main outcome will be welfare-assessment protocols for the mink, fox and finnraccoon species by 31 December 2010.

Welfare Labelling: EFBA welcomes the Commission initiative on animal-welfare labelling. We strongly support the options of harmonised EU requirements for the mandatory or voluntary use of claims in relation to animal welfare based on solid scientific evidence. We also encourage the exchange at European level of animal-welfare best practices.

Animal Health: EFBA welcomes the new Animal By-Products Regulation. EFBA will now start working on the implementing measures of this Regulation. This is important legislation as fur-animal feed consists exclusively of fresh meat and fish by-products. Production waste – carcasses – is usually used in biofuel production or incinerated. We will also be involved in the stakeholders' debate on the new Community Animal Health law.

European fur farming protects nature and promotes long-term sustainability

Biodiversity, EFBA wants to recall that in the context of the 2010 Year of Biodiversity, fur farmers are respectful of nature. Indeed fur-farmed animals have been domesticated for more than 100 years and responsible farming practices are in place to prevent any potential environmental damages. EFBA will continue to share this view with all European stakeholders.

Climate change, agricultural and farming activities have a key role to play in climate-change and greenhouse-gas-emissions reduction. Although fur farming is a small part of the agricultural sector, it can play its role as well. European fur farmers will be encouraged to contribute to this objective.

International Fur Trade Federation

The International Fur Trade Federation is a federation of 42 national trade associations, each comprised of many small and medium sized businesses ranging from fur producers to craftsmen and retailers.

IFTF Supports Free Trade

In 2008 fur retail sales totalled over €3 billion sales in the EU (last available figures). IFTF looks forward to continuing to work with the Commission in order to eliminate market access barriers and to oppose discriminatory trade restrictions and trade bans. The IFTF actively promotes free trade in fur between nations, when there is good animal welfare based on science and no endangered species enter the trade.

IFTF supports international welfare standards based on science

IFTF believes that trade barriers can best be avoided through the establishment of international standards. IFTF welcomed the adoption of the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS) and looks forward to its implementation in the EU within the coming year. The IFTF has long supported and invested substantially in research on animal welfare and encourages governments to adopt and implement international standards based on sound science.

IFTF supports consumer labelling

The IFTF supports consumer labelling and has been rolling out its voluntary and independently monitored Origin Assured (OA™) label since 2006 (the label assures consumers that the fur garment they purchase comes from a country where welfare standards are in force relating to fur production). The IFTF has long encouraged clear fur species labelling using the scientific Latin name as well as English or the local language. In view of the on-going discussions within the EU institutions on labelling, IFTF will be pleased to continue to share information about both of its labelling programmes.

IFTF supports Biodiversity and Conservation

The IFTF has supported the implementation of the CITES agreement since its inception and has been a full voting member of the IUCN since 1985. We actively promote the sustainable use principles of the IUCN and UN Convention on Biodiversity and the UN Environment Programme.

EFBA
EUROPEAN FUR BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION

IFTF
INTERNATIONAL
FUR TRADE
FEDERATION

www.efba-eu.com

www.iftf.com