



European Parliament

Brussels, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**Subject:** Common Agricultural Policy - The end of agricultural subsidies for bullfighting

Dear Minister of Agriculture Maria do Céu Antunes,

On 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021, in the context of the negotiations for the next Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), an interinstitutional meeting will take place where various aspects of the Strategic Plans will be discussed, including an amendment proposed by the European Parliament that aims to end the coupled support for the reproduction of animals used for the practice of bullfighting.

At issue is Article 31 (1c), corresponding to amendment 338f of the “four column document” that is accompanying the inter-institutional discussions, which states the following:

*Coupled support income will proportionally exclude the number of heads of cattle whose final destination is the sale for activities related to bullfighting, both by direct sale and through intermediaries<sup>1</sup>.*

Bullfighting is an activity that portrays and glorifies abuse, violence and cruelty to animals for the *entertainment* of a limited number of spectators, being only practised still in three Member-states of the European Union (EU) - Portugal, Spain and France. In addition to the brutality to which the animals involved are subjected, bullfighting also has worrying mental repercussions especially on the young who are raised in an environment where this activity is considered acceptable.

Therefore, we, the signatories of this letter, call on the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU to appeal for an interinstitutional consensus during negotiations that goes in agreement with the position held by the vast majority of citizens, and thus defend a CAP that refrains from supporting through subsidies - being direct or indirect - the torture of animals for *entertainment* in the form of bullfighting.

This is not the first time that the European Parliament has [spoken out against the support of this activity through European subsidies](#) and, in fact, very recently, through a cross-party initiative, over 60 deputies [opposed to a potential UNESCO distinction](#). Nevertheless, hoping that the coupled support for this barbaric activity will cease in the next CAP, we also hope that this will then be the last time this issue needs to be raised.

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<sup>1</sup> [Amendments\(1\) adopted by the European Parliament on 23 October 2020 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the Common agricultural policy \(CAP Strategic Plans\) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund \(EAGF\) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development \(EAFRD\) and repealing Regulation \(EU\) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation \(EU\) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council \(COM\(2018\)0392 – C8-0248/2018 – 2018/0216\(COD\)\)](#)

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