



# EU Action Plan against wildlife trafficking conference

16 November 2023 • 09:00 - 17:15 • Brussels

## Agenda

8:30 - 9:00 - Registration and coffee

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9:00 - 9:30 - Opening remarks

- Virginijus Sinkevičius, European commissioner for Environment (Video message)
  - Cesar Luena, MEP of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (Video message)
  - Agata Sobiech, Team leader - CITES and wildlife trafficking European Commission
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9:30 - 11:00 - Panel 1: Improve access to care for seized or confiscated live animals

Moderator

- Olga Martin, Representative of EARS

Presentations:

- Maria Pita Fernandez, General Service of Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity, DG of Biodiversity, Forests and Desertification Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (Online)
- Loïs Lelanchon, Programme Manager Wildlife Rescue, IFAW

Panellists

- Eva Schippers, Rescue and Rehabilitation manager, AAP
  - Dr. Henriette Mackensen, Vice director animal welfare academy (Deutscher Tierschutzbund)
  - Mark Jones, Head of Policy, Born Free Foundation
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11:00 - 11:15 - Coffee break

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**11:15 - 12:45 - Panel 2: Lessons learned from Member States: National implementation of the EU Action Plan and trade regulation tools**

### National Implementation of the EU Action Plan

#### Presentations

- Diana Pérez-Aranda, Plan TIFIES, Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge Spain (Online)
- Ondrej Kloucek - CITES National Focal Point for the Czech Republic, Senior official, Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic

### New tools to regulate the pet trade - Lessons learned from Member State

#### Moderator

- Dirk-Jan Verdonk, Director of the Netherlands office of World Animal Protection

#### Presentation

- Lina Čaplikaite-Denisoviene, senior advisor at the Ministry of ENVI, Nature protection policy group (Online)

#### Panellists

- Sabine van Westen, Policy officer animal welfare, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Netherlands
- Marina Michaelidou-Kadi, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment, Cyprus Senior Officer of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and the Environment
- Marie Bournonville - Executive assistant - Head of collections at Aquarium-Museum University of Liège, Belgium

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## 12:45 - 13:45 - Networking lunch

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**13:45 - 15:15 - Panel 3: Wildlife trafficking and enforcement challenges in source and consumer countries**

#### Moderator

- Catherine Bearder, Former MEP and IFAW Board Member

#### Panellists

- Chantal Marijnissen, Head of Unit for Environment, Sustainable Natural Resources, DG INTPA
- Cecile Plunet, Programme Manager – Global Threats, European Commission Service for Foreign Policy Instrument
- Ramon Gonzalez Gallego, Officer (Major) of the Spanish Guardia Civil (Seprona) (Online)
- Lionel Hachemin, Wildlife Crime Programme Manager, IFAW
- Andreas Bytzek, Managing Director, DeineTierwelt (Online)
- Eric Stephan, Law Enforcement Directorate for Environment and Public health - International strategy department - Gendarmerie Nationale



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15:15 - 15:30 - Break

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15:30 - 17:05 - Panel 4: EU legislation and illegally sourced wildlife: which gaps and solutions?

Moderator

- Dr Joanna Swabe, Senior Director of Public Affairs, Humane Society International/Europe (HSI)

First part: Issues on illegally sourced wildlife

- Demian Mikejevs Calça, Brazilian Federal police (Online)
- Pauline Verheij, Independent wildlife and forest crime specialist, EcoJust
- Jorge Jesus, Seconded National Expert, EU Organised Crime Unit, EUROPOL (Online)
- Kiril Arsovski Przo, Biologist and communication specialist in the Institute of communication studies of Macedonia

Second part: Solutions

- John Scanlon AO, Chair of End Wildlife Crime (Online)
  - Dr Sandra Altherr, Director of Science, Pro Wildlife
  - Laura Van Gijn, De Roos Advocates
  - Shennie Patel, former DOJ prosecutor, Crowell & Moring, LLC (Online)
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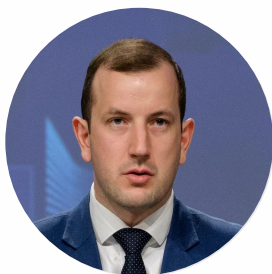
17:05 - 17:15 - Closing remarks

- Martin Hojsík, Renew Europe Group

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## Speakers and panellists

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### Virginijus Sinkevičius

**European commissioner for Environment**

Virginijus Sinkevičius is a Lithuanian politician who has been serving as European Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries in the European Commission led by Ursula von der Leyen since 2019. He previously was a Member of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and Minister of the Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania.



### Cesar Luena

**MEP of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament**

César Luena López is a Spanish politician of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) who has been serving as Member of the European Parliament since 2019. He was a member of the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th terms of the Congress of Deputies in representation of La Rioja.



### Agata Sobiech

**Team leader - CITES and wildlife trafficking European Commission**

Agata Sobiech leads the team dealing with CITES and wildlife trafficking in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment. Prior to this assignment she worked in several other European Commission departments, including international cooperation and home affairs, on issues such as Schengen cooperation, migration, trafficking in human beings and youth participation. She holds degrees in international relations, European studies and psychology.

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## Speakers and panellists

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### **Maria Pita Fernandez**

**General Service of Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity. DG of Biodiversity, Forests and Desertification Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge**

Technician at the CITES Management Authority, Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge Ministry of Spain, focus on the proper transfer and deposit of seized specimens of CITES flora and fauna

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### **Lois Lelanchon**

**Programme Manager Wildlife Rescue, IFAW**

Lois Lelanchon is a lawyer specialized in international environmental law and animal law. As Wildlife Rescue Program Manager with IFAW, he leads the Live Animals Seized in Trade strategy globally and works closely with law enforcement officials and wildlife authorities to implement best practices and procedures to ensure they properly care for animals rescued from wildlife trafficking. Lois currently serves as Project Director for IFAW's Confiscated Animals – Rescue & Enforcement (CARE) Project funded by the U.S. Department of State.

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### **Eva Schippers**

**Head of rescue & rehabilitation at AAP**

Degree in animal behaviour with a specialization in primates. Working at AAP for 22 years, first as a behavioral biologist now as a manager in the Netherlands and Spain. Since a few years project leader of a reintroduction project in Morocco.

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## Speakers and panellists

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### Henriette Mackensen

**Vice director animal welfare academy (Deutscher Tierschutzbund)**

Studied veterinary medicine at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich and received her doctorate in 2006. Since 2005 she has been employed as a specialist at the Animal Welfare Academy in Neubiberg, an institution of the German Animal Welfare Association. Her core topics are pet keeping, exotic pets, animal trade and fur animals. The German Animal Welfare Association is an umbrella organisation of animal welfare organisations and shelters in Germany. The shelters and local organisations as well as Tierschutzbund's self-operated facilities care for typical pets as well as exotic pets or native wildlife, including lost, confiscated or surrendered animals.



### Mark Jones

**Head of Policy, Born Free Foundation**

Mark trained as a vet at Liverpool University and worked for many years in fish health and disease control, before spending five years travelling extensively and working on rescue and rehabilitation projects in South America and Asia. He has Masters' degrees in both aquatic and wild animal health, and several years' experience in the non-government animal protection sector. He joined the UK-based international wildlife charity Born Free in 2014 where he is currently Head of Policy, managing a team focussed on promoting the adoption of progressive legislation and policy concerning wildlife conservation, management and trade, and the welfare of both free living and captive wild animals, at international, national and local levels.



### Diana Pérez-Aranda

**Plan TIFIES, Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge Spain**

Diana works at the Ministry for the Ecological Transition of Spain (MITECO), and she is part of the team that leads the development and execution of the Spanish Action Plan against illegal trafficking and international poaching of wildlife species (Plan TIFIES) from its approval in 2018. She is also part of the CITES Management Authority of Spain.

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## Speakers and panellists

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### Ondrej Kloucek

**CITES National Focal Point for the Czech Republic, Senior official, Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic**

Ondrej Kloucek was born in 1979 in Pardubice. Since 2006 he has been working at the Ministry of the Environment, last ten years as a National Focal Point responsible for implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES) in the Czech Republic. His areas of expert interest include biodiversity protection, EU Wildlife Trade Regulations or strategies to combat illegal wildlife trade. He has also been active in training and education of CITES officials in the Czech Republic or abroad and in the elaboration of CITES guidance materials for public and other CITES Authorities.



### Lina Čaplikaite-Denisoviene

**Senior advisor at the Ministry of ENVI, Nature protection policy group**

Senior Advisor of Nature Protection Policy Group of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, Master degree in European Union Law (Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius, Lithuania), almost 20 years experience in public sector, basically in EU and international environmental affairs as well as nature protection, including 3 years of diplomatic service as attache for environment in the Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the EU.



### Sabine van Westen

**Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Netherlands, Policy officer animal welfare**

Sabine van Westen works as a senior policy officer at the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality in the Netherlands. She works within the animal welfare team and is the project leader on the implementation of a new positive list for mammals.

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## Speakers and panellists

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### Marina Michaelidou-Kadi

**Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment, Cyprus Senior Officer of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment**

Marina Michaelidou-Kadi is a Senior Officer at the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment of Cyprus. She has a background in environmental conservation, with emphasis on the human dimensions of wildlife management (PhD, Cornell University). Since joining the Environment Ministry in 2004, her work has focused on promoting various environmental and animal welfare policies, and leading environmental awareness campaigns, focusing on young children. She was involved in the recent efforts of Cyprus to establish a Positive List for animals kept as pets, which came into force in 2021.

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### Marie Bournonville

**Executive assistant - Head of collections at Aquarium-Museum University of Liège, Belgium**

Marie is a zoologist with a specialisation in aquaculture and has been working at the Aquarium-Museum for 13 years. Since 2012 she has been expert at the zoological parks committee, first for the Belgian government, then for Flanders and Wallonia. The first mammal positive list was already in use at that time, but she experienced the development of the reptile lists in the three regions. In addition, she advises the welfare services of the governments when they receive exemption requests from people wishing to keep species not on the positive list.

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### Chantal Marijnissen

**Head of Unit for Environment, Sustainable Natural Resources, DG INTPA**

Chantal Marijnissen is the Head of Unit for Environment, Sustainable Natural Resources in DG INTPA at the European Commission. Prior to this posting, she was the Acting Head of Unit for Effectiveness and Financing, where she negotiated the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on behalf of the EU and its Member States and Development Effectiveness Agenda (2014-2016). Chantal was also responsible for the multiannual programming of the European Development Fund and methodological aspects of EU development cooperation (2007-2014).



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## Speakers and panellists

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### Cécile Plunet

**Programme Manager – Global Threats, European Commission Service for Foreign Policy Instrument**

Ms. Cécile Plunet is currently working for the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments of the European Commission, focusing on global and transnational threats. Prior to joining the Commission, she worked 16 years for the United Nations, both at HQ and in the field, in particular for the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) where she covered a wide range of thematic issues as well as for the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Before joining the UN, she worked for Amnesty International, the International Organisation for Migration and in the private sector.



### Ramon González Gallego

**Officer (Major) of the Spanish Guardia Civil (Seprona)**

Major Ramón González Gallego has been part of the Department of International Cooperation within SEPRONA for the last 5 years. He currently is co-driver of the ENVICRIME EMPACT and will be the DRIVER from 2024 to 2025. Before joining SEPRONA, he worked in units linked to the investigation of cybercrimes, financial crimes, and corruption. He also has a law degree, a Master's degree in Data Science, and several certifications of knowledge linked to cybersecurity and hacking.



### Lionel Hachemin

**Wildlife Crime Programme Manager, IFAW**

As coordinator of IFAW's global portfolio of wildlife cybercrime projects and activities, Lionel provides technical leadership and management support to cybercrime activities, including research, engagement, strategy, and training. Lionel joined IFAW as a temporary wildlife campaigner for the French office and then as a global researcher, leading to his current role as program manager. Lionel's work on wildlife cybercrime and, more broadly, wildlife crime also contributes to strengthening IFAW's impact in programs implemented jointly with governments, NGOs, or other organizations, such as the Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online.

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## Speakers and panellists

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### Andreas Bytzek

**Managing Director, DeineTierwelt**

Andreas Bytzek is a founding member of DeineTierwelt and is now the managing director responsible for all quality measures as well as animal welfare and wildlife protection at the company. In this context, he consistently supported DeineTierwelt entry into the "Coalition To End Wildlife Trafficking online". He was also largely responsible for the decision to ban all wildlife offers from the DeineTierwelt platform.

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### Eric Stephan

**Law Enforcement Directorate for Environment and Public health - International strategy department - Gendarmerie Nationale**

Law Enforcement Directorate for Environment and Public health - International strategy department. Police officer involved internationally at a strategic level with institutions and countries partners, dedicated to manage European projects. Former informant agent and former member of the OCLAESP's group for combating organized crime linked to trafficking in waste, medicines and animals.

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### Demian Mikejevs Calça

**Brazilian Federal police**

Federal Police Agent working in the environmental area since 2003. He worked in several investigations of environmental crimes and in interinstitutional and international cooperation actions. He has taught and gave lectures on environmental police topics, with a specialty in crimes against wildlife and investigation through open sources. Author of training materials on environmental crimes at the National federal police academy. Head of the Education and training unit at the recently created department of the Amazon and environmental crimes of the Brazilian Federal Police since January 2023.

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## Speakers and panellists

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### Pauline Verheij

**Independent wildlife and forest crime specialist, EcoJust**

Pauline Verheij is an environmental lawyer with more than 20 years of experience tackling wildlife and forest crime in Europe, Asia Pacific, Africa, and the Americas. In 2012, Pauline started her own consultancy EcoJust to provide technical and legal assistance on wildlife and forest crime issues to NGOs and (inter-) governmental organisations. In this capacity she has conducted a wide range of studies on wildlife and timber trafficking in the EU, Latin America, Southeast Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa; analyses of criminal justice responses to wildlife and timber trafficking; and various analyses of EU and domestic laws pertaining to (online) wildlife trafficking. Pauline is a member of the Network of Experts of the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law and the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication.



### Jorge Jesús

**Seconded National Expert, EU Organised Crime Unit, EUROPOL**

Since 2001, He worked as an economical and food security Inspector. From 2013 to 2019, he was nominated as criminal investigation Team Leader at the Economical and Food Security Portuguese Agency (ASAE). In 2020, he was nominated as Senior Inspector. From 2020, he works as Seconded National Expert at Europol's EnviCrime Analysis Project. Its work has been mostly dedicated to fighting Wildlife crime and Organised Crime Groups disruption, namely by coordinating Operation LAKE, on European eel illegal trade, and Operation Madeira de Lei on Illegal timber trade, among others.



### Kiril Arsovski Przo

**Biologist and communication specialist, Institute of communication studies of Macedonia**

Kiril Arsovski Przo is a biologist and environmental communication specialist lead by two purposes: to research the complex lives of the wildlife and to teach the others on the ways and approaches of communicating about the most valued natural heritages and most burning environmental issues.

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## Speakers and panellists

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### John Scanlon AO

**Chair of End Wildlife Crime**

John E Scanlon AO is a seasoned leader in the fields of environment and sustainable development governance, law, and policy, with a unique range of experience gained across multiple continents, disciplines and organisations. John's current roles include serving as CEO of the Elephant Protection Initiative Foundation, Chair of the UK Government Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, Trustee with the Royal Botanical Gardens Kew, Commissioner on the Lancet Commission on Preventing Pandemics, and President of Scanlon Advisory LLC. In 2019, John was awarded the prestigious Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to wildlife conservation and protection through roles with international organizations, and in 2023 he was awarded the distinguished Chinese Government Friendship Award.



### Dr Sandra Altherr

**Director of Science, Pro Wildlife**

Dr. Sandra Altherr is a biologist and a co-founder of Pro Wildlife. She has been working on wildlife trade for 25 years, always with a focus on exotic pet trade. In 2014, she published the first report on "Stolen Wildlife" – highlighting the trade in non-CITES species that were illegally acquired in their country of origin. Three more reports were released since then.



### Shennie Patel

**Former DOJ prosecutor, Crowell & Moring, LLC**

Shennie Patel, a former Trial Attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ's) Environmental Crimes Section, works as Senior Counsel for Crowell and Moring LLC in Washington, D.C., in environmental investigations and enforcement. During her twenty-one-year career with DOJ, Shennie led investigation teams and prosecuted a variety of cases, primarily wildlife and pollution crimes, working with agencies including the U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

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## Speakers and panellists

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### Laura Van Gijn

#### De Roos Advocates

Laura van Gijn is Partner at De Roos, a full-service firm with locations in Amsterdam and Brussels. De Roos commits to environmental sustainability and social responsibility. Laura is primarily specialized in intellectual property law and advertising law, but she is always keen to dive into other complex legal topics – in particular when this drives to positive change for our people and planet. Laura has over 16 years of experience in the field and was admitted to the Dutch bar in 2007. Laura and her team assisted IFAW by drafting a report regarding the Model Legislation against Wildlife Trade.



### Martin Hojsík

#### MEP, RENEW Group

Martin Hojsík has been actively involved in nature and animal protection for over 25 years. Since 2019, he serves as a Member of the European Parliament, working to avert the climate threat, protect biodiversity and animals, with a specific focus on pollinators. He is an active MEP in four committees - ENVI (environment, public health and food safety), ITRE (industry, research and energy), BUDG (budget). More recently, he has been appointed a vice-president of the European Parliament. In the past, he served as a Program Director of the animal protection organization Four Paws, working in global corporate and public policy campaigns for Action Aid, Greenpeace International and communication campaigns for Greenpeace national offices.

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## Moderators

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### Nick Clark

#### Wildlife Programme Leader Eurogroup for Animals

Nick Clark has worked as Wildlife Programme Leader at Eurogroup for Animals for two years. Prior to this, he has a range of experience from advocating for sustainable business and the social economy in Brussels, through to being the Head Teacher of a secondary school in Spain, with over 10 years working in education. His background in Zoology and Human Ecology have led to a passion for connecting a diverse range of stakeholders to help reach the best and fairest solutions to difficult issues, ensuring that animals are also well represented in discussions.

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## Olga Martin

### Representative of EARS

Biologist specialised in captive animal welfare with extensive working experience in rescue centres, first as the director of Primadomus in Spain and later on in various roles at AAP (Animal Advocacy and Protection) in the Netherlands, where she has been the team manager of the rescue and outplacement team and later on of the veterinarians and behavioural biologists. Currently she is supporting EARS (European Alliance of Rescue Centres and Sanctuaries) at various levels being one of them expanding its network..

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## Catherine Bearder

### Former MEP and IFAW Board Member

Catherine Bearder is a former Member of the European Parliament with a vast amount of experience in local and international governance. She also has held several positions in the voluntary sector as chair, governor and president for several charities. In her role in the European Parliament as well as leading cross party groups, notably the MEPs for Wildlife team, her focus was tackling illegal wildlife trade and she was the Parliament's author on the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking. Presently, Catherine is a member of the board of IFAW, the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

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## Dirk-Jan Verdonk

### Director of the Netherlands office of World Animal Protection (WAP)

Dirk Verdonk is director of the Dutch office of World Animal Protection and chair of the Dutch Animal Coalition, a collaboration of 16 animal protection organisations. Moreover, he is chair of the Dutch Fair Finance Guide and board member of Eurogroup for Animals. Finally, Dirk is also an author. His most recent book, just published, is *The exploded chicken*, the paradoxical history of the most eaten animal, which, amongst other things, zooms in on the impact of industrial chicken meat production on wild animals.

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## Dr Joanna Swabe

**Senior Director of Public Affairs, Humane Society International/Europe (HSI)**

Dr Joanna Swabe is Senior Director of Public Affairs for Humane Society International/Europe. She oversees the development and implementation of HSI's animal protection policies in the European Union. Her primary task is to encourage the EU institutions to achieve legislative change and to get a wide variety of animal protection issues on the agenda of EU policymakers. To date, Jo Swabe has worked on a broad range of animal welfare and wildlife protection issues in the EU, including the trade in commercial seal products, shark finning and CITES-related matters. She is also responsible for implementing HSI's trade policy in the EU, focusing primarily on the inclusion of animal welfare and wildlife protection provisions in Free Trade Agreements. Before switching to a professional career in animal protection in 2004, Swabe worked for more than a decade as an academic researcher in the field of anthrozoology. She received her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Amsterdam in 1997. Her doctoral thesis focused on the relationship between animals, disease and human society. She has published a wide variety of scholarly articles, books and research reports, primarily relating to human-animal relationships and veterinary issues.

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