EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS

Brussels, 15 September 2026

Subject: Invitation to take part in an independent study on the EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare (EURCAWs)

Dear colleague,

I am writing on behalf of Eurogroup for Animals (EfA) to invite you to take part in an independent study on the transparency and functioning of the four EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare (EURCAWs). Established under Regulation (EU) 2017/625, the EURCAWs support Member States' national competent authorities in implementing and enforcing EU animal welfare law. The four centres cover pigs, poultry, ruminants and equines, and aquatic animals.

As the EURCAWs increasingly shape how animal welfare legislation is interpreted and applied, we believe it is timely to review how the four centres operate, so that good practices can be identified and shared more consistently across the network. We have therefore commissioned a constructive assessment to support the network's continued development, with a particular focus on identifying best practices and practical opportunities for greater alignment between centres.

The study is being carried out by Cerebrus Advies BV, an independent research and policy consultancy in EU animal welfare science, led by Dr Jon Day and Dr Heleen van de Weerd. It combines desk-based research with structured interviews of key stakeholders, including the European Commission (DG SANTE), EURCAW coordinators, and national competent authorities with differing levels of engagement with the EURCAWs.

We would like to invite you to take part in one such interview. Cerebrus Advies will contact you directly to arrange a date, and can answer any questions about the study beforehand.

Thank you in advance for considering this request, we believe your perspective would be valuable in ensuring the EURCAWs continue to develop as effective, transparent, and trusted sources of technical support for enforcing EU animal welfare law.

Yours sincerely,



Reineke Hameleers,
CEO

Rue Ducale 29, 1000 Bruxelles
Tel : +32 (0)2 740 08 20
info@eurogroupforanimals.org
eurogroupforanimals.org