

Dear PETI Committee member,

On June the 15th 2022, Animal Equality filed a complaint to the European Commission against the 27 Member States addressing the damage caused by genetic selection on the welfare of 'fast-growing' broiler chickens bred in Europe for meat production.

The next day, on June the 16th 2022, a petition was filed with the European Parliament calling to take any action deemed appropriate to ensure compliance with European legislation to protect animals on farms, putting an end to the exploitation of fast-growing broiler chickens due to the welfare implications of their genetics.

These animals are the result of genetic selection to grow the most profitable parts of their bodies: breast and thighs. Until the 1950s, chickens weighed 1.2 kg in 112 days, whereas today they weigh over 2.5 kg in only 35-45 days.

This growth is not accompanied by a corresponding development of the respiratory, cardiovascular and skeletal systems, so from birth these animals suffer from muscle and limb problems, and painful conditions including ascites and dermatitis, they also have trouble moving and have serious breathing and heart conditions.

As a result of these health issues, chickens can also struggle to reach water and food, and often die of starvation or are forced into a miserable life, spent in a litter box filled with their own excrement.

The **European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)** itself, with its previous reports and its very recent scientific opinion on the welfare of broiler chickens [published on 21 February](#), **reiterates and confirms what is contained in the petition filed**, scientifically demonstrating that the genetic selection for 'fast-growing' broiler chickens causes serious pathologies to the animals.

Therefore, also in light of these considerations, it is legitimate to assume that the breeding of these animals contravenes current European legislation protecting animal welfare (Article 13 TFEU, Articles 3, 4 and point 21 of the Annex to Directive 98/58/EC).

On May the 24th, the European Parliament Committee on Petitions (PETI) will discuss the content of the petition.

In view of the above, [we would kindly ask you to attend the meeting and to support the petition](#). The European citizens themselves have spoken out in support of greater animal protection in the past, including calling for an end to cage farming. It is now up to politicians - who represent the citizens - to convince the European Commission that there is no longer any room for the genetic selection for fast-growing broiler breeds, which suffer profoundly all their life for the sole purpose of profit.

Best regards,



- Animal Equality Italia
- Animal Equality International
- Animal Equality Germany
- Albert Schweitzer Stiftung für unsere Mitwelt
- Anima International
- Animal Friends Jogja (AFJ)
- Animal Law Italia
- Animal Protection Denmark
- Animal Rights Center Japan
- Animal Save Movement
- Animalisti Italiani Onlus
- Animals Aotearoa
- AnimaNaturalis
- Arba Peru
- Associação Vegetariana Portuguesa
- Campaign and Activism for the Animals in the Industry (CAAI)
- CIWF Italia onlus
- Compassion in World Farming EU
- Deutscher Tierschutzbund e.V.
- Diervriendelijk Nederland
- Djurens Rätt

Djurskyddet Sverige
Dyrenes Alliance
Dzīvnieku brīvība
ENPA
Equalia ONG
Essere Animali
Ethical Seafood Research
Eurogroup for Animals
Fórum Animal
FOUR PAWS
Freedom and Respect for Every Earthling (F.R.E.E.)
Fundación Igualdad Animal
Fundacja Alberta Schweitzera
GAIA
Gallinas Ecuador (part of PAE)
Humane Society International
Humane Society International Europe
Humánný pokrok
International Organization for Animal Protection (OIPA)
Kafessiz Türkiye
L214
Lega Anti Vivisezione
LNDC Animal Protection
Mercy For Animals
MTÜ Loomus
Nähtamatud Loomad
OBRAZ - Obránci zvířat
Oikeutta eläimille
Plataforma ALTO
Protección Animal Ecuador
SEY Animal Welfare Finland
Sinergia Animal
Terranimal
The Humane League
The Humane League México
The Humane League UK
Tušti narvai
Vege zajednica
VegEatables Ng
Vegetarianos Hoy
VEREIN GEGEN TIERFABRIKEN (VGT)
Voices for Animals
World Animal Protection
