



Andrea Zanoni MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

**Open letter to the attention of:**

- Victor YANOKOVYCH, President of Ukraine
- Mykola AZAROV, Prime Minister of Ukraine

Brussels, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012

Dear President,

Dear Prime Minister,

we are writing you as Members of the European Parliament, but also as spokespersons for the common feeling of numerous citizens and associations from the European Union and from your country, regarding the issue of animal welfare in Ukraine, with particular reference to the continuous mass killings of stray dogs and cats which have been taking place in an apparent effort to achieve a neat and glamorous image for the Euro 2012 football championship, which is going to be co-hosted by Ukraine next summer.

The massacre of strays in Ukraine has been documented by photo-reporters and associations during the last year and, more intensively, during the last months. It has been estimated that ten thousand animals have been brutally killed so far. Photos and videos portraying stray dogs being slaughtered in a number of inhumane ways in the streets of Kiev and many other Ukrainian towns have been spread all over the world, shocking enormously the public opinion. The culling of stray dogs and cats has been carried out by way of cruel and barbaric methods such as poisoned baits, rounds of gunfire, beating, injections of illegal substances... In some cases, dogs have even been tossed alive into mobile incinerators, while in other cases they have been fed food laced with cheap chemicals, causing them protracted suffering and ultimately death.

Despite repeated reports, appeals and initiatives by civil society, the Ukrainian massacre does not come to an end and is also undermining the image of Euro 2012, a major European event which should have been a significant occasion to spread the principles of integration and civilization.

We, the undersigned MEPs, find such policies for the management of stray dogs and cats unacceptable and ask you to intervene urgently and put an end to the mass slaughter of thousands of innocent animals. We ask you to address the problem of regulating the stray population in an alternative, completely different and humane way, for example by constructing and equipping shelters where the acceptable method called "Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage" (TNRM) could be implemented. In parallel, it is necessary to find and to punish the perpetrators of the bloody killings of stray animals and to make the national law "On protection of animals from cruel treatment" finally respected by the majority of the Ukrainian citizens.

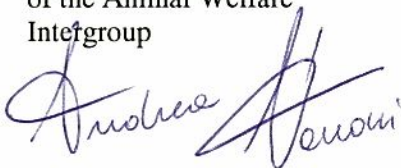
We are hereby sending you our request to take urgently action, also with reference to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between the European Union (EU) and Ukraine, which entered into force on 1 March 1998 and is set to be replaced by the Association Agreement.

We look forward to hearing very soon that the barbaric massacre of stray dogs and cats has been stopped in Ukraine.

Yours sincerely,

**Andrea ZANONI**

MEP and Vice-president  
of the Animal Welfare  
Intergroup



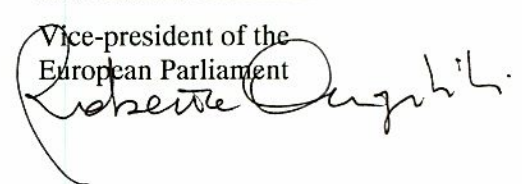
**Gianni PITTELLA**

Vice-president of the  
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**Roberta ANGELILLI**

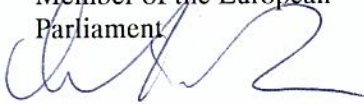
Vice-president of the  
European Parliament



Andrea Zanoni, Member of the European Parliament

**Oreste ROSSI**

Member of the European  
Parliament



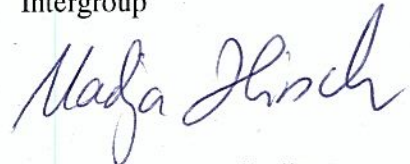
**Sonia ALFANO**

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**Daciana Octavia SÂRBU**

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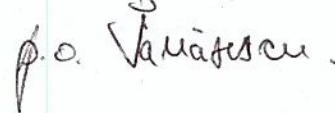
**Giommaria UGGIAS**

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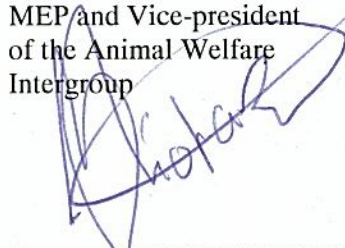
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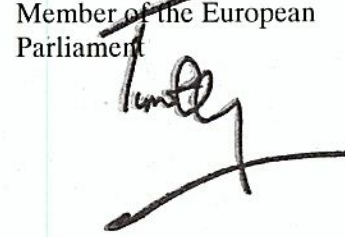
**Niccolò RINALDI**

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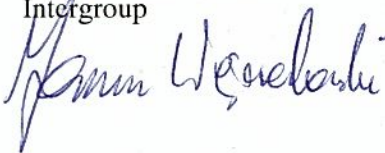
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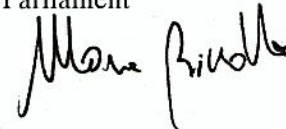
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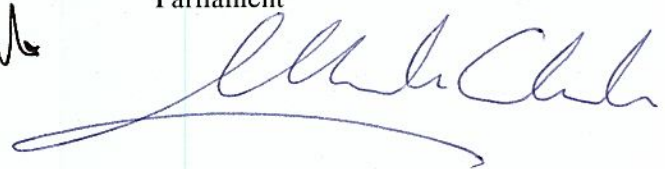
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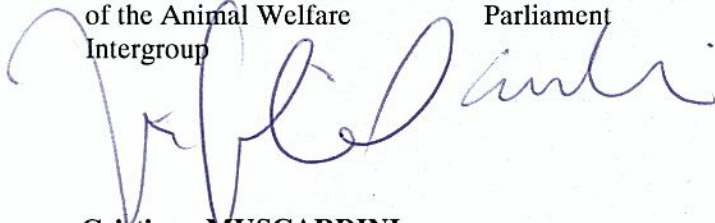
**Bart STAES**

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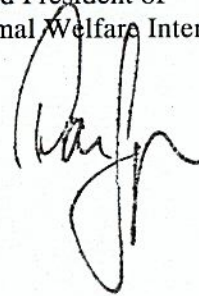


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