



INTERGROUP ON THE WELFARE & CONSERVATION OF ANIMALS

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Established in 1983

Open letter to the attention of:

Jorge Carlos Fonseca, President of Cape Verde

José Maria Pereira Neves, Prime Minister of Cape Verde

Maria Cristina Lopes Almeida Fontes Lima, Health Minister

Antero Veiga, Environment Minister

Fernanda Maria de Brito Marques, Education Minister

Strasbourg, 14 June 2012

Ref.: EG/AE/12/2012

Dear President, Dear Prime Minister, Dear Ministers

The Members of the European Parliament Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals are writing you regarding stray animal welfare in Cape Verde.

The island country has applied for years a killing policy against abandoned dog and cat populations without remarkable results in the reduction of their numbers.

The perpetrated massacres have been documented and denounced chiefly by expatriates and tourists. We have been shocked by photos and videos portraying dogs killed in various inhumane ways.

In this context, we were very pleased to hear about the project *“Luta contra os animais vadios na ilha de São Vicente - Projeto piloto para o arquipélago de Cabo Verde”* which has been worked out by the animal welfare organization [Si Ma Bô](#) and has been allocated a conspicuous EU grant in the context of a call for proposals by the EuropeAid Co-operation Office for Non-state Actors in Development in Cape Verde¹

For the implementation of the project the EU Delegation to Cape Verde and Si Ma Bô have submitted a proposal of agreement to the Municipality of São Vicente but unfortunately the municipal authorities have neither made suggestions for modifications nor expressed their willingness to sign the agreement.

The Members of the Intergroup find the currently applied management measures for stray dogs and cats as unacceptable. We therefore call on your intervention to immediately stop all killing campaigns and to address this issue in an alternative way following the guidelines of the World Health Organization.

We urge you to appeal to the Câmara Municipal of São Vicente in order to reach an agreement and to carry out the Si Ma Bô project in the best possible way. This is essential in the light of the fact that Si Ma Bô has already received 100,000 € as first payment of the EU aid. The implementation and enforcement of the project is essential to respect the commitments made and to guarantee concrete results.

We also call on you to promote educational campaigns aimed at promoting an undisturbed coexistence between people and animals and to foster legislative movements for an Animal Protection Law able to protect also stray animals and to sanction any cruelties against them.

We look forward to your reply and hope that the Câmara Municipal of São Vicente will sign the above mentioned agreement and will stop the inhumane killings of abandoned dogs and cats.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Jørgensen
President

Andrea Zanoni
Vice-President

¹ Programa para Actores Não Estatais e Autoridades Locais no Desenvolvimento, Convite à apresentação de propostas publico, Referência: EuropeAid/130817/L/ACT/CV