



# Stakeholder meeting on the protection of animals kept for fur production

Communication in response to the ECI “Fur Free Europe”

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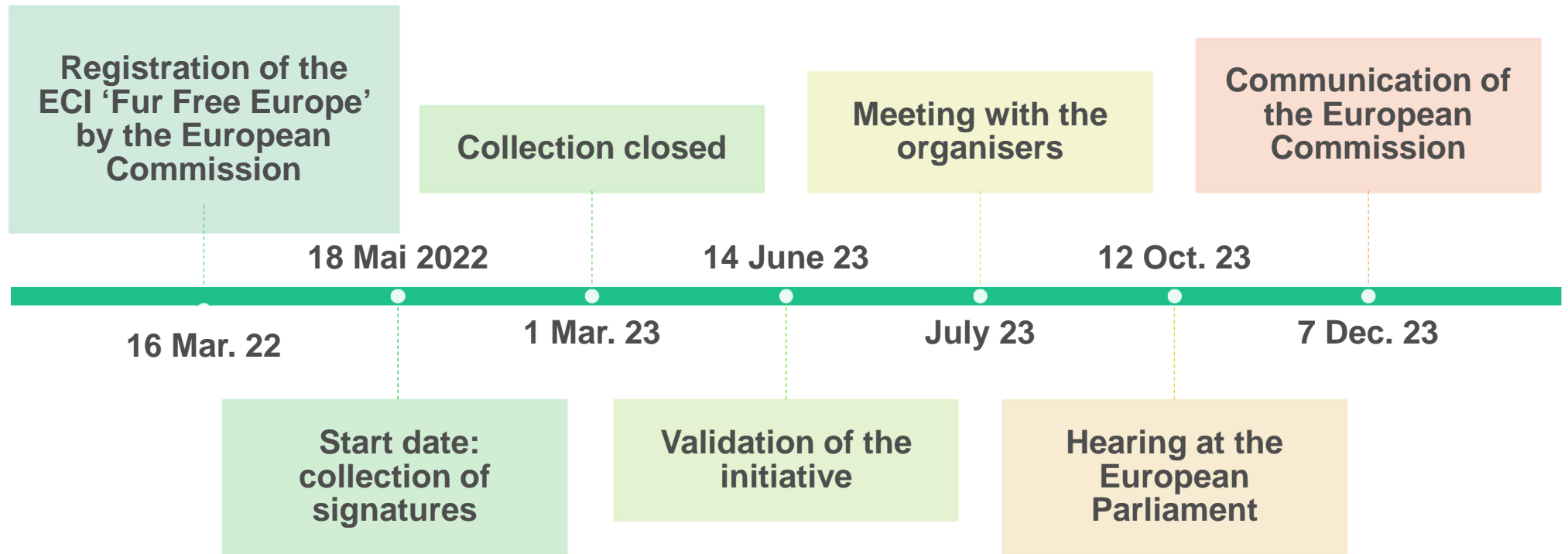


## The 'Fur Free Europe' initiative

A call of more than **1,5 million EU citizens** to take action and prohibit two main practices:

- The keeping and killing of animals for the sole or main purpose of fur production.
- The placement of farmed animal fur, and products containing such fur, on the EU market.

# Timeline



# Structure of the Communication

- Historical background
- Current EU policy context
- Analysis of current situation in relation to internal market and trade
- Response to the European Citizens' Initiative
- Conclusions

# Historical background and policy context

- Council of Europe Recommendations on the welfare of fur animals
- 2001 Scientific Opinion on the welfare of animals kept for fur production
- Industry voluntary certification scheme – Welfur
- Current EU policy context: Green Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy
- Current EU legal framework for fur animals

# One Health dimension and policy response

- Biosecurity - key factor to prevent disease
- The risk by SARS-CoV-2 virus for the general population represented by infected mink is considered very low to low
- The risk of infection of humans with avian influenza viruses remains low and low to moderate
- Continues monitoring of the evolution of the High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) epidemiology and its potential impact on public health as well as the assessments to address newly identified risks
- High Security Committee adopted in December 2023 an opinion on zoonotic avian influenza with suggested actions to be considered by Member States under the One Health umbrella

# EU policies on invasive alien species

- Species listed under the Invasive Alien Species Regulation (Regulation (EU) 1143/2014) (IAS Regulation) are selected based on a risk-assessment process
- Risk assessments undertaken under the IAS Regulation for the Raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) and the American mink (*Neovison vison*)
- Raccoon dog already listed
- Updating risk assessment for American mink

# EU textile policies in relation to fur products and EU trade policy context

- Current rules regarding textile labelling require reference to the presence of 'non-textile parts of animal products'
- Current rules do not apply to products containing 20% or more of non textile parts (including fur) by weight
- Ongoing review of the Textile Labelling Regulation
- Protection of environment and ethical concerns can be the basis for import requirements if done in full respect of WTO rules.
- Essential the case-by-case assessment and careful analysis of each case on its own merits



# Analysis of current situation in relation to internal market and trade

- Approximately 1088 active fur farms/ 7,7 million mink, foxes and racoon dogs as main species kept
- Large number of Member States adopted bans or partial bans on fur farming
- Need for a European approach /a ban would be disproportionate
- The EU has a considerable trade surplus in fur and fur products both in raw skins and in fur apparel

# Response from the Commission

- By March 2025 EFSA to provide an updated scientific opinion on the welfare of fur animals
- Commission to assess the justification, feasibility and proportionality of a ban on fur farming and the marketing of farmed fur in the EU or suitable alternatives
- By March 2026 Commission to communicate on the results of the assessment and measures it intends to take
- Additional measures related to One health, environment, textile labelling