

Serbian Animals Voice

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~ Mark Twain, letter to W.D. Howells, 2 April 1899



Dear Sir / Madam,

17th June 2010.

I write to you as the founder of 'Serbian Animals Voice' (SAV), a NGO based in England, Uk, which is dedicated to the improvement of conditions and legislation for stray animals (primarily dogs and cats) throughout the Balkans states.

Part of your wording within your 'Evaluation' section of the EUPAW site declares:

*"The EU adheres to the principle that, beyond specific objectives, **people have an ethical duty of taking care of animals which are under their responsibility.** EU legislation in those fields reflects the increasing importance given by the public on the ethical dimension of economic activities dealing with animals".*

I would like to make some comments on, and also include some reference documentation for inclusion and your review in the EU policy on Animal Welfare (EUPAW) as established by the European Commission, [Directorate General Health and Consumer Protection](#) (DG SANCO) specifically with regard stray animal welfare in the Balkans states, especially Serbia and Macedonia.

Firstly, I appreciate the basic fact that nations of the Balkans states are NOT existing members of the EU. As some of these same Balkans states ARE seeking EU accession / membership in the very near future, I consider that animal welfare should be considered just as importantly by the EU for future accession state membership as that for other non-animal related issues.

As an EU animal welfare campaigner, I also very much understand that **at this present time, the EU does NOT have any form of official legislation relating to stray animal welfare.** And so, one has to immediately question the statement made within 'Evaluation'; re *"The EU adheres to the principle that, beyond specific objectives, people have an ethical duty of taking care of animals which are under their responsibility".*

This 'ethical duty' as it is worded, is certainly **NOT the case within the EU** when it comes to stray animal welfare.

Stray animals do not make money for EU member states; unlike the suffering laboratory animals, unlike the suffering livestock being hauled all over Europe every day of the week. That is why the EU does not care about stray animals in Europe.

In my personal opinion, the EU fails in its very first objective of the eleven evaluation questions, this being:

'To what extent has EU animal welfare legislation achieved its main objective i.e. to improve the welfare conditions of animals within the EU?'

The EU has failed to establish any kind of EU policy with regard the welfare and population control of stray animals within the EU; and so, quite simply, it has failed in its first objective of establishing legislation to *"improve the welfare conditions of animals within the EU"*.

There is no EU legislation for stray animals – and so the EU is failing stray animals.

Despite continued lobbying by animal welfare organisations within the EU for legislation for stray animals across the EU; very often undertaken by organisations comprised of persons and staff who

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ARE EU citizens, there has been nothing positive coming back from any of the Commissioners that give any campaigners a view of hope.

The EU has failed EU stray animals and in doing this, **it has also failed the continued requests of EU citizens**. This is nothing the EU Commission can be proud of.

Experiences by my organisation (SAV) over recent past years, especially with regard to Commissioner Olli Rehn – the previous EU Enlargement Commissioner, has given nothing except veiled promises and ‘weasel words’ directly from the heart of the EU – its Commissioner’s !

This is not acceptable.

The new EU Commissioner now responsible for EU Enlargement is Stefan Fule, and I trust and very much hope that this new Commissioner is very much more responsive to the requests of European NGO’s that Commissioner Olli Rehn ever was. Rehn did not care about animal welfare whatsoever, as was reflected in the fact that never, not once, did a response ever be returned by Commissioner Rehn to numerous actions and questions asked by myself. Unfortunately, Commissioner Rehn is driven by only one thing; and that is money !

Since 2007 Serbia has received EU financial aid under the instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA). **The allocation for 2009 totals €194.8 million.**

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/potential-candidates/serbia/financial-assistance/index_en.htm

EU accession for new member states.

Commissioner Rehn always told us via his ‘EU enlargement’ website that:

Accession criteria

Concerning the timing, the European Council states: “Accession will take place as soon as an associated country is able to assume the obligations of membership by satisfying the economic and political conditions required.” At the same time, it defined the membership criteria, which are often referred to as the ‘Copenhagen criteria’.

In 1993, at the Copenhagen European Council, the Union took a decisive step towards the fifth enlargement, agreeing that “the associated countries in Central and Eastern Europe that so desire shall become members of the European Union.

” Thus, enlargement was no longer a question of ‘if’, but ‘when’.

COPENHAGEN EUROPEAN COUNCIL

“Membership criteria require that the candidate country must have achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities; the existence of a functioning market economy as well as the capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union;”

When it comes to enforcing animal welfare legislation, Serbia is NOT enforcing its own ‘rule of law’. We can prove this by supplying the following information from our site:

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<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/01/25/serbia-constitutional-court-of-serbia-says-that-the-killing-of-stray-dogs-and-cats-in-serbia-is-forbidden-from-02102005/>

The above is the most important issue, and despite the verdict of the serbian Constitutional Court, stray animal killings continue illegally to this present day as is shown below.

le; **Serbia is not enforcing the 'rule of law'** with regard its own national animal welfare legislation, the 'rule of law' implementation proof **which is required by the EU** for future accession states.

So in our opinion, this affects the (existing EU) consideration of Serbia as a future EU member state **UNTIL SERBIA can prove to the world that it IS enforcing its own national animal welfare legislations as ordered by the Constitutional Court and as detailed in the legislation of the Constitutional Court.**

Our policy is a simple one –

That if Serbia continues to kill stray animals as it has done continually and illegally since October 2005, which is in direct opposition to the Serbian Constitutional Court ruling relating to the Veterinary Law of 02/10/2005, then this is not showing that it (Serbia) is enforcing 'the rule of law' – a requirement for accession into the EU.

Proof of animal abuses within **Serbia** are provided in the following links:

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/01/05/serbia-serbia-ignores-its-legislation-policy-of-killing-animals-after-just-3-days-eu-what-are-you-doing-about-it/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/06/13/serbia-loznica-again-female-dog-saved-from-being-buried-alive-proof-of-the-killings-done-by-the-city-shinters-bodies-dumped-openly-on-the-city-dump-adjacent-to-the-animal-pound/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/06/03/serbia-now-that-stray-animal-control-programmes-go-to-public-tender-authorites-cut-budget-by-two-thirds-to-ensure-animal-welfare-proposals-fail/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/06/02/serbia-subotica-city-now-stray-animal-control-is-opened-up-to-public-competition-including-welfare-organisations-suddenly-the-budget-for-same-is-dramatically-reduced-the-closed-shop-big-money-w/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/05/18/serbia-180510-new-photographs-of-loznica-pound-animal-killings-and-conditions-at-city-dump-no-wonder-stray-animals-are-attracted/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/05/13/serbia-loznica-city-shelter-captured-stray-dogs-used-for-target-practice-by-local-hunters/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/02/14/7006/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/05/04/serbia-temerin-city-their-animal-shelter-death-after-3-days-and-a-national-public-attorney-who-says-all-is-ok/>

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<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/05/11/serbia-loznica-city-pound-3-million-dinars-for-what-certainly-not-for-animal-welfare-politicians-maybe/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/05/27/serbia-rabies-across-the-nation-legally-allows-animals-to-be-killed-but-has-the-oie-been-informed-by-the-serbian-ministry-of-these-alleged-nationwide-outbreaks-or-just-a-creational-excuse/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/05/16/serbia-sample-letter-to-send-to-the-government-the-eu-commission-and-to-the-world-organisation-for-animal-health-the-oie-serbia-must-change-its-attitude-towards-stray-animals-and-willingless-to/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/03/12/serbia-120310-illegal-spring-clean-of-stray-dogs-by-government-and-authorities-nis-city-dogs-hung-from-trees-whilst-shinters-go-killing-more-dogs-in-other-cities-and-towns/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/03/10/serbia-has-a-national-rabies-outbreak-been-invented-as-the-only-legal-way-to-now-kill-stray-animals-it-appears-that-the-oie-have-not-been-informed-of-these-outbreaks/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/05/06/serbia-exclusive-pictures-of-jkp-termerin-temerin-city-dog-and-cat-shelter/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/03/21/serbia-zajecar-city-210310-all-dogs-have-now-been-killed-live-cats-thrown-into-cages-to-be-killed-by-dogs-who-have-not-had-food-and-water-since-050310/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/03/19/serbia-nis-city-190310-dogs-drowned-and-then-hung-from-tree-newspaper-translation-and-protest-letter-to-mayor-of-nis-city/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/03/14/serbia-140310-more-photographs-of-the-dog-killings-at-nis-city-protest-now-sample-letter-provided/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/03/12/serbia-120310-illegal-spring-clean-of-stray-dogs-by-government-and-authorities-nis-city-dogs-hung-from-trees-whilst-shinters-go-killing-more-dogs-in-other-cities-and-towns/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/01/21/serbia-smederevo-city-pound-the-dog-whos-eyes-cried-pus/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/01/20/serbia-is-rabies-currently-being-used-as-an-excuse-by-the-government-to-slaughter-thousands-of-stray-dogs-and-wild-species/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/01/07/serbia-smederevo-city-dog-pound-latest-pictures-and-reports/>

By failing to establish EU wide legislation for the protection of stray animals, and more importantly, ensuring the enforcement of legislation for the protection of stray animals, **the existing EU is doing nothing better than lowering itself to the very low levels and pitiful attitude shown by the Serbian government and authorities over many years**, including this year, 2010.

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Only when the EU moves forward, lives up to its promises of improving legislation for EU animal welfare, can we hope to see a day in the future when stray animal suffering as witnessed in Romania, Greece, Spain, Serbia and other Balkans states, becomes a thing of the past.

European Animal welfare NGO's continue to provide all the evidence of stray animal suffering throughout the EU and the Balkans states. EU Commissioners and other officials continue to ignore it. The EU citizen continues to be betrayed by those he / she has elected as a result.

EU, you are failing in animal welfare for stray animals.

Get it sorted, and sorted immediately. Put finance into second place just for once – consider animal welfare just for once. Act for stray animals across the EU !!

Yours,

Mark Johnson

Founder – **Serbian Animals Voice** - <http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/>

Kent, England, Uk.

And an EU citizen.

Additional Information

Romania; Existing EU member state abuses stray animals - links:

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/05/26/romania-veterinarians-police-and-authorities-fail-to-enforce-national-legislation-to-protect-stray-animals-just-like-serbia/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/06/16/romania-please-sign-the-petition-for-the-braila-street-dogs-video-included-also/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/05/20/romania-brigitte-bardot-in-protest-over-bucharest-dog-cull/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/03/10/romania-your-assistance-is-needed-to-submit-email-letters-to-the-prefect-of-dolj/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/02/24/eu-240210-romania-to-discuss-the-need-for-neutering-of-dogs-and-animal-cruelties-in-romania-watch-it-live-today/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/02/12/romania-this-existing-eu-member-state-is-now-trying-to-legalise-mass-killing-campaigns-of-strays-again-sign-the-petition-and-give-your-objection-to-this/>

Greece; Existing EU member state abuses stray animals - links:

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<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/02/16/eu-member-state-animal-abuse-album-series-part-1-greece/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/01/13/greece-horse-dragged-behind-car-for-2km-protest-sample-letter-petition-etc-please-act-and-demand-justice/>

Proof of animal abuses within **Turkey – EU accession nation**, are provided in the following link:

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/02/10/turkey-with-eu-funding-to-authorities-and-government-700-dogs-thrown-out-into-the-wilds-to-defend-for-themselves-activists-call-for-urgent-changes-to-animal-welfare-legislation/>

Proof of animal abuses within **Macedonia** are provided in the following links:

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2009/10/19/eu-sav-writes-to-eu-enlargement-commissioner-olli-rehn-regarding-concerns-about-balkans-animal-welfare-legislation-enforcement-or-lack-of/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2009/10/24/eu-balkans-sav-launch-new-petition-asking-eu-to-act-in-advance-of-balkans-states-eu-membership-accession-please-read-and-sign-petition-link-in-text-below/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/03/25/macedonia-public-company-komunalna-higiena-%e2%80%93-skopje-who-have-attempted-to-cover-up-pound-killings-for-years-are-now-informed-by-the-commission-that-they-have-to-provide-data-on-dogs-ta/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/02/16/macedonia-160210-update-still-no-change-your-massive-action-and-support-now-needed-please-read-on/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2010/01/09/macedonia-dogs-being-hunted-with-baseball-bats-killed-and-dumped-on-local-landfill/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2009/12/14/macedonia-sav-now-supports-eu-eurogroup-for-animals-by-formally-writing-letter-to-eu-commissioners-expressing-concerns-about-conditions-and-animal-suffering-at-vardariste-holding-facility-skopje-ma/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2009/12/11/macedonia-no-change-at-skopje-now-the-eu-animal-welfare-intergroup-president-writes-to-the-eu-commissioner-asking-for-actions/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2009/11/13/macedonia-vardariste-pound-skopje-campaign-%e2%80%93-part-2-of-3/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2009/11/12/macedonia-vardariste-pound-skopje-campaign-part-1-of-3/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2009/11/11/macedonia-important-new-campaign-launch-save-the-dogs-at-vardariste-pound-skopje/>

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<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2009/10/11/macedonia-update-vardariste-pound-111009-sav-formally-writes-to-eu-animal-welfare-intergroup-requesting-investigation-into-conditions-at-and-eu-funding-of-same/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2009/10/09/macedonia-exposed-the-alleged-wonderful-conditions-at-vardariste-animal-pound-via-eu-funding-of-10000-euros-a-year-we-demand-eu-intervention-now-to-stop-this-terrible-abuse-of-animals-par/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2009/10/08/macedonia-eyewitness-report-of-skopje-macedonia-wants-eu-membership-but-the-eu-does-not-want-them-whilst-animal-abuse-and-suffering-continues-now-we-ask-the-eu-animal-welfare-intergroup-and-mep/>

<http://serbiananimalsvoice.wordpress.com/2009/07/12/macedonia-mayor-of-skopje-declares-all-dogs-must-be-killed-please-read-and-send-sample-letter-supplied-also-2-petitions/>

Attachments Provided with this message:

Pdf – Presentation to Mr. Alain Hutchison MEP.

“Current Situation in Serbia”.

by Mark Johnson and Diana Hartig.

Pdf – Presentation to the Fondation Franz Weber and the International Court of Justice for Animal Rights.

“The Case for Serbia’s Strays”

by Mark Johnson and Diana Hartig.