



FEDERATION OF YOUNG
EUROPEAN GREENS

GENERAL

27-29 AUG

2020

ASSEMBLY

Brussels, BE / Online

POWERED BY PLANT: OUR FUTURE

POWERED BY PLANT: OUR FUTURE

Motion Text

It is time to take a radical stance against the consumption of animal products. FYEG is convinced of the necessity of taking action against climate change. There is also a need to end the overwhelming amount of suffering that animals endure in the current system. Moreover, the industry surrounding animal products leads to enormous inequality between the global North and South while at the same time furthering pre-existing social injustice. Therefore, we want to strive for as little consumption of animal products as possible. This is an important step towards a more sustainable and animal-friendly society. The restriction of consumption of animal products is absolutely necessary to achieve these goals to realize a sustainable future for all.

Climate Emergency

The climate is changing rapidly and this has to be stopped immediately. This is a human-made climate emergency. Our consumption of meat and other animal products has a huge impact on the emission of greenhouse gases, especially methane and CO₂. Livestock farming is responsible for the largest emissions (at least 18% of the total) of greenhouse gases. In total, more than 70% of all agricultural land is currently used for animal husbandry. Abundant research has made clear that an important cause of the current global warming is caused by livestock farming. To effectively reduce the pollution of the world's ecosystems, our governments must take action and reform these industries. As Young Greens we must advocate system change in this industry specifically. Our goal should be a world with as little consumption of animal products as possible to create a sustainable future for all of us.

Animal welfare

To put it bluntly, because of our societal consumption on animal products billions of animals are murdered every year. The vast majority of these animals are held in appalling conditions. This is of course to ensure the highest margin of profit for the business. Though many people still believe humans have the right to exploit other animals for their own use and pleasure, we actively speak out against this view. All animals should have the right to live, and to live well. This mentality change will take time for our societies to make, however it already holds true.

Social injustice on a global scale

The existing system of animal consumption contributes to pre-existing social injustice globally. Where once local farming was enough, the gigantic increase in consumption of animal products has resulted in the redistribution of these industries. For example, countries in the global South now produce massive amounts of animal products. Not for their own population's consumption, but for the countries in Europe and North America where the demand for these products is exponentially higher. Due to the immense scale on which these highly polluting industries take place, the local population suffers from the damaging effects that they have on their surroundings. This concerns mostly indigenous peoples. Their country is stolen from them and they are displaced or given the option to work on the farm. These cases are not few and far between, this is a systemic practise by big farming businesses. We recognise that to dismantle this system that increases social injustice,

it will be necessary to drastically reduce our demand of animal products.

Just transition

The phase-out of consumption of animal products doesn't only require changes of individual behaviors but also systemic change. The phasing out of consumption and production of animal products must be thought through and done in a socially just way. The many farmers and workers in the meat and animal products industry, who are already among the most impacted by poverty, must be supported in this transition. Transition schemes must be offered and fully subsidised to make it as accessible as possible. These programmes would contain relearning of farming practices and knowledge for a more responsible, accessible and sustainable farming system.

The current European system of animal husbandry leads to the suffering of hundreds of millions of animals. This number should be reduced drastically. Practices that are causing the highest level of animal suffering and negative impact on the environment such as industrial livestock farming, cage farming or hunting must be phased out first.

This transformation should not take us away from a much needed reform of our whole food and agricultural system, guaranteeing food security and based on the principles of food sovereignty and agroecology, as detailed in FYEG resolution "Reinventing our agricultural policies».

Conclusion:

To summarise our resolution, the young greens call for a radical system change towards a plant based future. Our future society should be powered by plants to eliminate the problems that animal consumption brings.

We hope to move forward into a world in which animals are not abused and murdered for human consumption. We hope for a world in which food choices that are encouraged by the government no longer result in social injustice. And most of all a world; since if we continue this path of destruction, there is no sustainable future.