



New Animal Welfare Initiative launched at IWTO Congress 2010

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During the last IWTO Congress in Paris the first step was taken for what is said to become a 'Global Animal Welfare Guideline for the Wool Industry'. This year's Environment and Animal Welfare Forum was dedicated to the topic of animal welfare with invited speakers from international institutions, NGO and the wool industry.

Participants of the Forum were Chairman Petrus De Wet, Andrea Gavinelli from the EU Commission's "Animal Welfare Unit"; Daniela Battaglia from the Food & Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) currently Animal Protection Officer; Michael C. Appleby, Chief Scientific Adviser of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA); Harry Prinsloo, Vice President of the National Wool Growers Association of South Africa (NWGA) and Don Hamblin, President of the Wool Producers Australia (WPA).

During the forum, the participants agreed that it is imperative to be pro active rather than reactive and to engage growers, FAO, EU and NGO's. The need for a standardised Code of Animal Welfare Best Practices for the wool industry was expressed and deemed necessary. In order to do so, all available codes of best practices are to be combined from IWTO member countries into a unified document. This first draft will then be circulated to all national committees of IWTO for further comments and input including the consultation from FAO, EU and involved NGO's. It is of key relevance that following this procedure the result will function as a one size fits all standard applicable and in agreement with all parties involved. It has been noted that existing animal welfare standards are very similar with up to 95% conformity. On the other hand minor differences exist due to geographical and social conditions which must also be respected.

The Animal Welfare and Environment Committee under its Chairman Petrus De Wet will start working on the issue immediately, the "Draft 1" is planned to be ready for the upcoming IWTO Round Table in Biella in November 2010.

For more information or details please contact Philipp Stroh at stroh@iwto.org

IWTO is the international body representing the interests of the world's wool textile trade and industry. Our multi-national membership includes woolgrowers, traders, primary processors, spinners, weavers, and garment manufacturers, together with retailers and other companies involved in wool related businesses.

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