

Deputato al Parlamento Europeo

**Open letter to the attention of:**

Mr Gjorge Ivanov, President of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Mr Nikola Gruevski, Prime Minister of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Ms Lence Nikoloska, Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Water Resources Management

Mr Dejan Runtevski, Director of the Food and Veterinary Agency of the Republic of Macedonia

Mr Dimitar Terzievski, Advisor at Food and Veterinary Agency of the Republic of Macedonia

Brussels, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2013

*Dear President, Dear Prime Minister, Dear Chairperson, Dear Sirs,*

We are writing you as Members of the European Parliament, but also as spokespersons for the common feeling of numerous citizens and associations from the European Union and from your Country, regarding the issue of animal welfare in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The condition of the animals, in fact, involves a number of challenges of today's world as, for instance, ethics, consumer protection, food security, public health and the internal market.

As the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia since 2005 has the status of "candidate country" to join the European Union, we firmly believe the Macedonian Institutions should promote high standards of animal protection and welfare policies.

Regarding companion animals and management of stray animals, we deem immediate actions are necessary to protect both animals and people.

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has applied for years a killing policy

against dog and cat stray populations without remarkable results in terms of reduction of their number.

The massacre of stray animals in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has been documented by local associations and citizens and we have been terribly shocked by photos and videos portraying dogs abused, injured, slaughtered and killed in various inhuman and brutal ways.

Despite repeated reports, appeals and initiatives by Macedonian civil society and international animal protection NGOs, these cruel and barbaric massacres do not come to an end and, on the contrary, continue to undermine the image of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

We, the undersigned MEPs, find the currently applied management for stray animals as unacceptable and, therefore, call on your intervention to immediately stop these killing campaigns and address the problem in a completely different and human way.

We also call on you to promote educational campaigns aiming at encouraging an undisturbed coexistence between people and animals. Furthermore, we ask you to allow volunteers in the municipal shelters and urge you to promote positive relationships with local animal welfare NGOs as expression of Macedonian civil society.

We, Members of the European Parliament, hereby, invite you to take into due consideration the draft law for amending the current Law on animal protection and welfare of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia prepared by OIPA in cooperation with the Macedonian NGO Anima Mundi.

Yours sincerely.

NICCOLO' RINALDI, MEP

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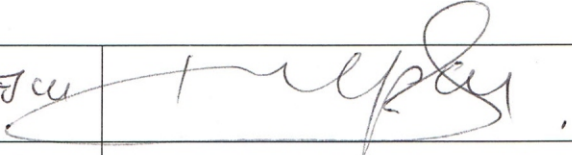



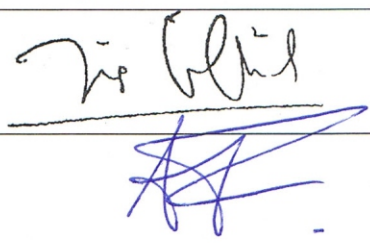
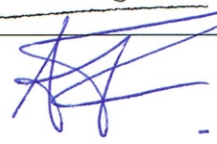
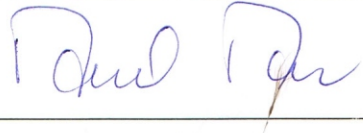
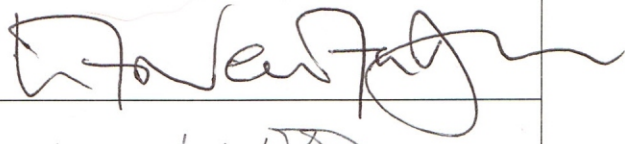
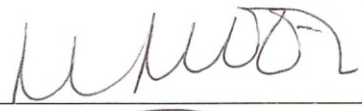
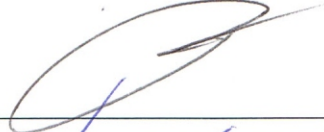
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