

Respected Mr Aksoy,

We would like to inform you that animal welfare NGOs from Serbia are shocked and appalled with Türkiye's decision to start the mass killing of its stray dogs and cats. If this abhorrent practice goes ahead it will irrefutably damage the reputation of Türkiye worldwide. With 55.1 million visitors in 2023, generating an income of 54.3 billion, your country is one of the most visited in Europe, and calls for boycott are already flooding the internet.

Many of us have spent every summer holiday in Türkiye just to be able to enjoy the beautiful nature and beautiful connection between humans and animals. It's not too late to stop this horrific law and show Türkiye's compassion for our companions. Your country has been such a brilliant example of good CNR practice (catch - neuter - release) and humanity worldwide, especially for all the countries in the region dealing with stray animals, and this terrible change caught us all by surprise.

We really hope that Türkiye will stop this barbaric culling, and will show again to the world its humanity and respect towards animals, just like it did for years. Mass killings are unacceptable for any modern society, especially since we know that respectful cohabitation between people and animals is possible! Cats and dogs have been our faithful companions and helpers for centuries. From basic companionship to saving lives like in the aftermath of the terrible earthquakes Türkiye dealt with in 2023.

Please, we urge you to use your influence to stop this barbaric practice that will, irrefutably, damage Türkiye's reputation, worldwide. We urge Türkiye to go back to its leading role in the region as an animal friendly country and example of good CNR practice.

Thank you and best regards,

NGO European Initiative 17, Belgrade, Ivona Atanasijević Stošić, president
Society for the Protection of Animals welfare and Environment „Bella“, Novi Sad, Zorka Damjanović, president
Society for the Protection of Animals „Spaske“, Kraljevo, Danijela Jović, president
Association for the Protection of Animals „Pazovačke Paws“, Stara Pazova, Slavica Mikić, president
Society for the Protection of Animals and Development of Civic Consciousness „Phoenix“, Belgrade, Milica Ranković, president
Solidary for Animals and Environment, Belgrade, Aleksandra Dudić, president
Organization for the Rights and Protections of Animals „Welfare“, Lebane, Goran Momčilović, president
NGO The Right to Live, Šabac, Vesna Teodorović, president
Animal Protection Association „Črna“, Valjevo, Marija Jovanović, president
Animal Welfare Organisation „Bor Paws“, Bor, Marija Samardžić, president
Association for the Protection of Animals and the Environment “Požarevačke šapice”, Požarevac, Dušica Đorđević Popović