

## **Déclarations**

### **Declaration made by the Representative of Switzerland on the occasion of the adoption of the draft Recommendations concerning Muscovy ducks and hybrids of Muscovy and domestic ducks, domestic ducks and domestic geese**

Switzerland cannot adopt the Recommendations of the Standing Committee concerning Muscovy ducks (*Cairina Moschata*) and hybrids of Muscovy and domestic ducks (*Anas Platyrhynchos*; T-AP (95) 20), Domestic ducks (*Anas Platyrhynchos*; T-AP (94) 3) and Domestic Geese (*Anser anser* f. *domesticus*, *Anser Cygnoides* f. *domesticus*; T-AP (95) 5). However, the Swiss Representative will abstain from the vote in order to allow the formal adoption of these Recommendations and to allow the slight improvements concerning the mutilations, the water equipments, the bedding areas and the single cages to come into force.

The Swiss animal welfare policy guides along the general principles of the first chapter of the European Convention for the Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes. The demand that housing conditions have to fulfil the species-specific physiological and ethological needs of the animals, as required in Article 3 of the Convention, is according to our interpretation not met by the Recommendations mentioned above, in particular, the absence of a demand for suitable bathing or swimming facilities in all three recommendations, the possibility to mutilate the beaks and claws of Muscovy ducks and to keep these birds for still a long period of time in extremely narrow single cages are detrimental to the welfare of the waterfowl species concerned. Furthermore, Switzerland cannot accept that the practice of force-feeding and the production of fatty livers is "in principle" accepted as a possible branch of the waterfowl production.

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### **Declaration made by the Representative of The Netherlands on the occasion of the adoption of the draft Recommendations concerning Muscovy ducks and hybrids of Muscovy and domestic ducks, and domestic geese**

The Netherlands abstained from a vote on the Recommendations of Muscovy ducks and geese in the Coreper of the European Union, because the Netherlands find that there is not made enough progress in animal welfare concerning the issue of *foie gras*.

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### **Declaration made by the Representative of The United Kingdom on the occasion of the adoption of the draft Recommendations concerning Muscovy ducks and hybrids of Muscovy and domestic ducks, and domestic geese**

The United Kingdom is, of course, pleased that a conclusion has been reached on this difficult subject area. Many people have worked long and hard to achieve it.

I have to record, however, our extremest disappointment that the Committee was not able to go further in addressing the question of the force-feeding of ducks and geese and the keeping of birds in small cages. We find both of these practices unacceptable and for that reason, the United Kingdom abstained from voting when the European Union position was agreed in COREPER.

We hope that those countries which permit *foie gras* production will encourage research into its welfare aspects and into alternative methods which do not include gavage - as required by the Recommendations.

We look forward to a happier outcome when the Recommendations are reviewed in 5 years time.