



Report General Assembly of the Advisory Board on Animal Health and Welfare 2023

Dear chairman, dear fellow board members, dear breeder colleagues,

As usual, in the various sessions of the divisions, you have all been able to hear what we have been doing as an advisory board since the last congress. I can also tell you that I am very satisfied with the way things are going on the Advisory Board.

I'm more optimistic here than last year. I'm still worried about the future of our hobby, but the past year has also shown that our situation is certainly not hopeless. As mentioned in our report, in Germany, with a lot of effort and with the right justifications and arguments, the unjustified claims about rabbits have been proven right and thus refuted. The ZDRK can be proud of this result.

The effects of our actions towards the European Union are comparable. First, the public consultation that we asked you to organize last year has prompted renewed thinking from the European Commission. Subsequently, the conversation Andy Verelst and I had with European officials in Brussels at the beginning of February gave them new insights as well. Hopefully this will change the rules in our favour.

Both examples show that our situation is sustainable if we do things right. For me, they show what approach is possible for us. While I'm more optimistic than last year, the call to us all remains the same. We must continue to do our utmost to make the great value of our hobby clear to the outside world. Therefore, I strongly support our secretary's request that you, as a national association, provide up-to-date contact details. You can therefore tell us what you are doing at national level. Then we can involve you in what we are doing together at European level. We must do this as a front, as Entente Européenne.

Thanks for your attention.