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RSPCA Welcomes European Parliament vote

The RSPCA welcomes today's European Parliament message to Ministers that the proposed Broiler Directive is simply too weak.

In a clear message to the Council of Ministers, it was the Parliament's view that the legislation needs to be substantially strengthened. Stronger minimum standards for Broiler (chickens bred for meat) production throughout the 25 EU Member States are required.

"This is a good, clear message from Parliament and one which we think ministers must take note of when they make their key decision in the next few months," says Peter Craske, RSPCA's Senior European Campaign Manager.

Minimum European standards for Broiler Chickens are desperately required. Bred and farmed solely for their meat, they are by far the most numerous farmed species in the EU, with some 5.2 billion animals reared every year. Without minimum standards, extensive and unnecessary suffering takes place.

Strengthening amendments passed include Parliament wanting to see lighting at 50 lux compared to the 20 lux (equivalent to good street lighting, where daylight is 10,000 lux) proposed, as well as wanting the upper limit for stocking densities set at 34 kg/m² from 2013. More detail is available at www.europarl.eu.int