

## **“Building a Europe that cares for companion animals”. Former Students of Master in Animal Law and Society take part in the Conference.**

Loïs Laimene-Lelanchon <sup>1</sup>

On October 28, 2013, former students in Animal Law and Society met for the occasion of the first Conference ever celebrated on the welfare of dogs and cats in the European Union.

The 1-day event was organized by the European Commission with the support of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Eurogroup for Animals and two of the collaborating entities of the Master in Animal Law and Society: the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) and Four Paws/Vier Pfoten.

The conference took place in the Charlemagne building of the European Commission in Brussels (Belgium) and attracted a large and varied number of stakeholders including animal protection organizations, national officials, industry officials, veterinarians and lawyers.

The presentations focused on the legal aspects of the welfare of dogs and cats within the European Union, notably with regards to trade and breeding.

Dr. Andrea Gavinelli, Head of the Animal Welfare Unit, DG SANCO, European Commission, who participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Master in Animal Law and Society and will return for the current 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, was the Chair of Session III which dealt with the facts, tools and perspectives needed to fulfil the title of the conference: “Building a Europe that cares for companion animals”.

Dr. Marlene Wartenberg, director of the Four Paws/Vier Pfoten European Policy Office, in her presentation on the CAROdog and CAROcat projects for responsible companion animal ownership, mentioned the Derecho Animal Web Center and the UAB, as

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<sup>1</sup>Ph.D Candidate in Animal Law, UAB, LL.M. in International and Comparative Environmental Law (Université de Limoges, France), LL.M. student in Animal Law and Society (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain), LL.B. in International and European Law (Université Aix-Marseille, France)

partners of the [European Enforcement Network of Animal Welfare Lawyers and Commissioners](#).

One of the strongest statements was made by Dr. Iria Boissevain attorney and Professor of Law at Utrecht University (Netherlands) who claimed that “*animals should not be seen as objects by the law*”, highlighting the headlines in France regarding the legal status of animals in the Civil Code.

The 8-hour long web streaming of the conference is still available on the [European Commission’s website](#), as well as the [agenda and presentations](#), the [program brochure](#) and the [concluding report](#).

Please consult our [Alumni section](#) dedicated to our former students in Animal Law and Society for more information about the attendees and the program.