

EN

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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(25.3.2026)

1. In the Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), there is a dedicated unit (SANTE.G.3) responsible for animal welfare¹. The work of that unit, which currently counts 14 members (including two seconded national experts) insofar as animal welfare-related matters are concerned, is presented in the Directorate-General's Annual Activity Reports². As for any cross-cutting policy area, other Directorate-Generals contribute with their staff to the Commission's work on animal welfare-related affairs.

In the Cabinet of the Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare, there is a policy assistant responsible for animal welfare and a Member of Cabinet following animal welfare related dossiers from the European Parliament³.

2. The allocation of human resources is decided on an annual basis, based on how the needs develop in the respective policy areas, with the evolution of external – and sometimes unforeseen – factors considered, such as pandemics and other crises. It is therefore not possible to provide a prediction of how the resources allocated specifically to animal welfare will evolve in the coming years.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/277adfe3-745d-40ad-b530-450af9d715e2_en?filename=organisation-chart-dg-sante_en.pdf.

² E.g. the 2024 Annual Activity Report:
https://commission.europa.eu/publications/annual-activity-report-2024-health-and-food-safety_en.

³ https://commission.europa.eu/about/organisation/college-commissioners/oliver-varhelyi/oliver-varhelyis-team_en.