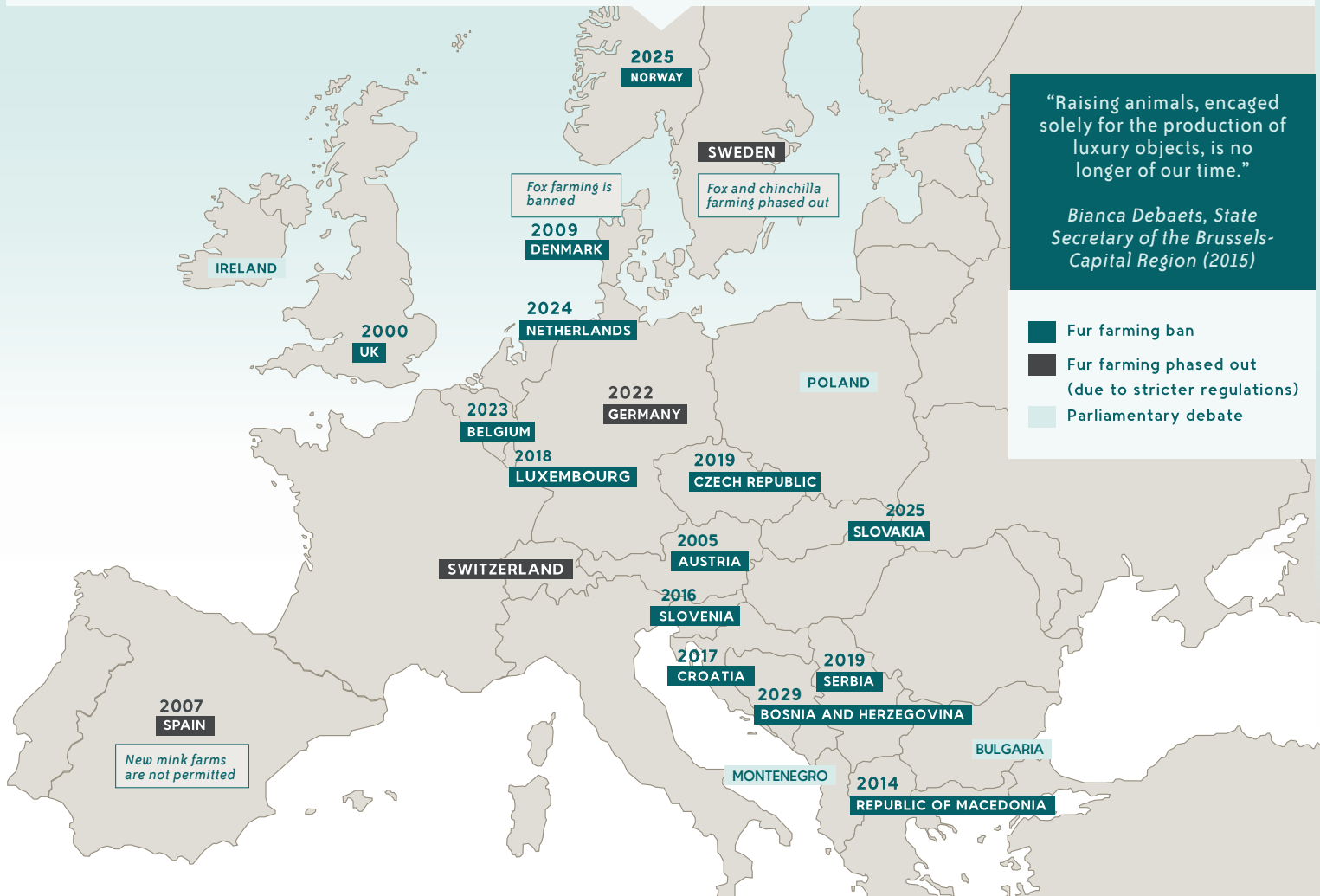


MAKE FUR HISTORY



The tide is turning against the practice of fur production as concerns about animal welfare and the ethics of fur continue to grow. Many EU Member States have already adopted legislation to prohibit or limit fur farming, but further measures are needed.



THE CONDITIONS ON FUR FARMS ARE SIMILAR WORLDWIDE

A systematic analysis of the legislation in Denmark, Norway and China has shown that the legislation for fur farming does not significantly differ between Europe and China.¹ On a fundamental level, fur farming leads to similar welfare problems all over the world as the animals are denied the ability to express many of their species-specific behaviours.²

FUR FARMING PROHIBITIONS IN EUROPE DO NOT INCREASE FUR PRODUCTION IN CHINA

China already counts for more than half of the world's fur production.³ The European fur industry has contributed to the growth of Chinese fur farming, through their marketing of fur and fur production in China.⁴ As the ethical awareness of animal welfare issues grows worldwide, young people in China are becoming increasingly aware of animal welfare issues. European nations should take global leadership on animal welfare by banning fur farming.

MAKE FUR HISTORY



FUR FARMING DOES NOT CREATE STABLE JOBS IN EUROPE

Fur farming is a small sector in the EU and employment opportunities on fur farms are relatively limited, and most often seasonal in nature. Employment on fur farms is usually part-time and carried out during killing and pelting season. These are not regular full-time jobs. As the tide is turning against the practice of fur production, the fact is that fur farming is an increasingly unstable industry, both economically and politically.

FUR FARMING DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE EU

Fur farming does not contribute to positive synergy effects on tourism, technology development or on the landscape. Due to the environmental problems, including the unpleasant odour around fur farms, the chance of developing the area in terms of tourism are smaller, local residents may be affected and investments may be hindered.⁵

CLOSING DOWN FUR FARMS DOES NOT CAUSE HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT

As the number of fur farms in many countries decreases, the existing fur farms are becoming bigger, but are not necessarily employing more people.⁶ The fur industry used to estimate the number of full-time jobs to be 10 full-time jobs per fur farm.⁷ This number is likely an overestimation and mainly refers to indirect jobs. Figures from Sweden and Norway give an average of 3 workers per fur farm.^{8,9} With a total of about 5 000 fur farms in Europe¹⁰, it corresponds to 15 000 direct jobs. There is little evidence that the closure of fur farms has led to significant unemployment.¹¹ Besides, studies show that fur farming is only a part-time business for many farmers who also run a traditional farm or other enterprise.^{12,13}



1. Dahlback, M. & Kleveland, L. (2014) En sammanligning av regelverket for pelsdyroppdrett i Kina, Norge og Danmark, Fagnotat Dyrevernalliansen.
2. NOAH & Animalia (2015) Case Saga Furs. Nordic Fur Trade - Marketed as Responsible Business.
3. China Daily. "Official statistics key to China's fur farming industry." Chinadaily.com.cn. http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2015-08/20/content_21659731.htm (accessed January 11, 2018).
4. Noah & Animalia.
5. Bijleveld, M., Korteland, M. & Sevenster, M. (CE Delft, 2011) The Environmental Impact Mink Fur Production.
6. Besluit van de Deputatie van de provincie Oost-Vlaanderen, 15 March 2007. In: De Argumenten van de Bontindustrie: Weerlegd. (GAIA, 2008).
7. European Fur Breeders Association, 2008 Annual Report.
8. Hovland & Boe (2012) Pelsdyrhold i Norge- avvikling, arbeidsforbruk og selskapsform. Norsk institutt for landbruk-sokononisk forskning.
9. SOU 2003:86 Djurens välfärd och pälsdjursnäringen: www.regeringen.se/rattsdokument/statens-offentliga-utredningar/2003/10/sou-200386/ (accessed January 11, 2018).
10. Fur Europe, 2015 Annual Report.
11. Hovland & Boe.
12. Hovland & Boe.
13. Kamne, U. & Franzén, A. (2014) Efter pälsfarmen – Undersökning av alternativa sysselsättningar. Miljöbyrån Ecoplan.