

## Stop misinformation on foie gras production !

Since its creation in 2008, Euro Foie Gras has been proud to promote the profession of foie gras producer, foie gras being a star dish of the gastronomic heritage of our continent. The continuous exchange of experiences and know-how within the federation is and will remain of paramount importance for the sector, as well as the awareness raising of policy makers to the issues the sector deals with.

Euro Foie Gras has always encouraged constructive dialogue on production conditions, biosafety standards, quality criteria and any other subject of interest to the federation. Euro Foie Gras has also always been open to critics which are an integral part of the democratic debate.

Nevertheless, we must not confuse on the one hand, criticism and rational questioning with regard to an agricultural sector or any other economic activity, and, on the other hand, actions of misinformation based on false statements and truncated images. The digital age unfortunately generates a favorable environment for sensational publications from associations that cultivate a conflictual relationship with reality on the ground and often exploit the public's lack of knowledge about the production of foie gras.

Thus, various animalist associations continue tirelessly to publish images of ducks in individual cages to stigmatize our farms. However, individual cages have been replaced by collective cages for several years in EU farms, in accordance with the Council of Europe Recommendation of 1999 concerning Muscovy ducks.<sup>1</sup>



Mulard ducks in individual cages (*épinettes*) are forbidden and are no longer used in the European Union

Image published by the Finnish animalist association *Oikeutta eläimille* on March 12, 2019. Images of this type are regularly published by animalist associations on social networks.



Collective cages are used today

Image from the Sauvenière farm, Wallonia, Belgium

<sup>1</sup> See article 11.7 of 22 June 1999 Recommendation concerning domestic ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos*), available here : [https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectId=090000168052d5d7](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=090000168052d5d7)

Far from being content with photos, opponents of foie gras do not hesitate to deceive by video images. The Polish animalist organization *Otwarte Klatki* published on March 14, 2019 a video of a goose farm in Ukraine accompanied by dismal music. In this publication, the organization asserts that the production of foie gras in Ukraine is similar to that of France and Hungary, which is absolutely false: European production complies with the Council Directive 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 on the protection of animals kept for farming purposes.<sup>2</sup> Using images from a third country, with a particular montage, in order to discredit European production is not compatible with a rigorous and accurate information process. On the contrary, it is a dishonest approach aimed at discrediting an extensive and outdoor production carefully carried out by responsible breeders in the 5 producing countries of the European Union (France, Spain, Hungary, Bulgaria and Belgium).

In the absence of duly sourced shock images, some associations such as *Animal Equality* rely on interpretation. Noticing during a farm visit in Dordogne (France) that geese and ducks bred for foie gras live in good conditions, the English association projected in the same video images of scared ducks from the same farm. However, activists ignore or purposely fail to acknowledge that the fear of ducks is a natural reaction to seeing a stranger approaching them. These images were used to fill the lack of shock images that *Animal Equality* activists were not able to obtain in the Dordogne farm. By the association's own admission, they were surprised to learn that many foie gras farms are open to the public. How could it be otherwise since foie gras producers are an example in European breeding and are proud to show the public the production as it is?



Inside a Foie Gras Farm  
21 798 vues

👍 135 🗨️ 68 ➦ PARTAGER 📁 ENREGISTRER ⋮

 Animal Equality  
Ajoutée le 15 nov. 2018

S'ABONNER 32 K

Print screen from the video shot in France by  
*Animal Equality*

<sup>2</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=celex%3A31998L0058>



Moreover, is it normal that when the foie gras sector seeks to correct false information published on social networks by these same associations, they make the information disappear and refuse to answer it (like Eurogroup for Animals, who erased its tweet of 22 January 2019 following our reaction to its erroneous content, including the deliberate use of an individual cage photo no longer existing in EU production)?

More than ever, Euro Foie Gras is committed to responding to any misrepresentation and false shock image to restore the accuracy of information about foie gras. No ideology and no ambition can justify undermining the truth of information.