

Metro AG Annual General Meeting on 14 February 2020

on agenda item 3:

Resolution on the formal approval of the actions of the members of the Management Board

Counter-motion:

I move that the actions of the members of the Management Board in office in the 2018/2019 financial year not be approved for this period.

Reason:

The Management Board is violating corporate guidelines (Code of Conduct) and damaging the company's image (reputational risk).

Metro AG places sustainable business practices at the forefront of its business activities. Economic, ecological and social standards are important to it.

These principles were not observed in the past fiscal year. Serious animal welfare requirements were disregarded, which led to legal disputes with supervisory authorities and damaged the company's image.

Specifically, the company is involved in the transport of live animals and, in particular, the trade and sale of live lobsters in its wholesale branches.

For years, consumers and well-known animal rights organisations have criticised this practice as cruelty to animals, which is not compatible with the German Animal Welfare Act.

In the opinion of many lawyers and veterinarians, the sale of live lobsters is contrary to animal welfare.

In February 2017, the VG Berlin confirmed in a landmark ruling that lobsters are "capable of suffering". (VG 24 K 188.14)

This means that the German Animal Welfare Act also applies to lobsters: "No one shall cause pain, suffering or harm to any animal without reasonable cause." (§ 1 TierSchG)

The ability of the animal to move in a manner appropriate to its species shall not be restricted in such a way as to cause pain or avoidable suffering or injury. (see § 2 point 2 TierSchG)

Lobsters are usually flown in alive from North America or Canada over thousands of kilometres. During transport their claws are tied together, they receive no water and no food.

When they arrive here, the lobsters are temporarily stored in salt water basins, with scissors tied together and without food!

Lobsters are loners.

In the basins they suffer terrible stress, from light, from conspecifics. They become aggressive, attack each other and seek protection.

In many animals the antennae are injured or broken off. These tactile organs are equipped with sensors for touch stimuli and are highly sensitive.

And their killing is as cruel as transport and storage: boiled in boiling water! Boiling alive is also an agonizing death for lobsters and violates animal protection laws.

Metro AG has been aware of this problem for at least 2 years! In April 2017, the animal rights organization Animal Rights Watch asked the veterinary office in Duesseldorf to prohibit Metro AG from selling live lobsters.

With the support of the Erna-Graff-Foundation for Animal Protection, Animal Rights Watch is taking all publicly effective and legal steps to end this cruel and unnecessary practice at Metro.

Against better knowledge, the Management Board has so far taken no action to finally end this form of animal cruelty.

As a shareholder, I reject any form of animal cruelty. My investment should be sustainable and ethical.