

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

20 May 2015

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**Via e-mail:** [thierry.meeus@minieurope.eu](mailto:thierry.meeus@minieurope.eu)

Dear Mr Meeùs,

I am writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) UK and AnimaNaturalis, a Spanish animal rights organisation – along with our hundreds of thousands of supporters throughout Europe – to urge you to update the depiction of Spain in the Mini-Europe park from a bullring to something more representative of modern Spanish culture such as Seville's Plaza de España.

Bullfighting is animal abuse, plain and simple. In the ring, the bull has swords plunged into his neck, back and body again and again until blood pours from his wounds and mouth. He is terrified and in excruciating pain. He doesn't want to die, but he can't run away, and soon he won't even be able to stand up. After falling to the floor from exhaustion and massive blood loss, he can only watch as a knife rips into his spinal cord to kill him. This is the experience of bulls killed in Spanish bullfights.

Opposition to bullfighting in Spain is already vast and mounting. According to a recent survey, 76 per cent of Spaniards show no interest in bullfights, up from 56 per cent in the '80s, and 76 per cent oppose the use of public funds to support the industry. The entire region of Catalonia is just one of the many locales in Spain that have banned bullfighting for good.

The loss-incurring bloodsport of bullfighting could not continue without public subsidies paid by taxpayers. It's estimated that in Spain, the bullfighting industry receives hundreds of millions of Euros from direct and indirect EU subsidies. In a report led by Dr Alfred Bosch MP, it was estimated that even the lowest-level bullfights cost at a minimum €60,000, and the cost of first-rate *corridas* is 10 times that figure. Dr Bosch estimates that local governments subsidise at least 33 per cent of these costs, and subsidies are often between 50 and 90 per cent. This is because Spanish people aren't interested in paying to watch this cruel spectacle.

We urge you to update Mini-Europe by replacing the archaic and cruel image of animal abuse with something that truly represents Spain and its people. We would be happy to suggest alternatives.

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS (PETA)  
FOUNDATION – a charitable  
company limited by guarantee,  
with its registered office at  
125 London Wall, London EC2Y 5AS.  
Registered in England and Wales  
as charity number 1056453,  
company number 3135903.

**Affiliates:**

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands

Thank you in advance for your time. I would be very grateful if I could hear from you on this subject. On behalf of PETA and AnimaNaturalis, you can contact me at [KirstyH@peta.org.uk](mailto:KirstyH@peta.org.uk) or on 020 7837 6327 if you have any questions or would like more information. I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Henderson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kirsty Henderson  
Campaign Coordinator  
PETA UK

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aida Gascón". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Aida Gascón  
Executive Director  
AnimaNaturalis