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## G.Schneider on Animal Welfare

G. Schneider is one of the oldest company's in the wool and animal trade with its headquarters in Switzerland and branches in Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Outer Mongolia, Iran and China. The company has issued the following press release regarding animal welfare.

' In view of the recent and past events related to animal welfare that have caused serious concerns within the wool industry, we, as a vertically integrated company involved in farming, processing and marketing of natural animal fibres, would like to stress our position in this regard.

Looking back to history, from the industrial revolution onwards, there was a stage where productivity and profit were the only priorities. As a reaction to this primitive and narrow minded way of conceiving business, a second movement took place, one of extreme conservancy; this movement puts conservation of land at the top, by stimulating the dismissal of farming activity as a solution, completely neglecting the essential concept of "sustainable development".

We strongly believe that "sustainable development" is the best option; farming, industry and trade can perfectly subsist together in total respect of the land, human beings and animal welfare. We are strongly convinced that progress and conservancy can live together being complementary activities.

We have recently promoted a number of farming practices that are already being implemented in our farms, to comply with GOTS in Argentina and go even further by including practices related to animal welfare within the Organic Protocol, of which we have been strong supporters since the beginning.

Farming practices must aim to preserve land from erosion and take care of animal welfare and promote education of skilled workers. This trend towards a better relation between human activity and the environment has already started, but will take few years before the conservancy practices become part of the new culture. We therefore totally disagree with those who believe that the only solution is the dismissal of a traditional and noble industry as ours by replacing natural animal fibres with artificial fibres, an even less environmental friendly option.'

<http://www.woolnews.net/news/g-schneider-on-animal-welfare/>