

**Question for written answer E-004861/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Violent action still against stray dogs

There are only six dog pounds in the whole of Macedonia. The conditions in these pounds are, moreover, terrible. In the capital Skopje there is just one animal sanctuary, run by volunteers. Sterilisation and vaccination are practically unknown and if a decision is taken to 'clear the streets' then these poor beasts are destroyed. Some areas even pay 'scinteri' to go round the streets with their vans, round the dogs up and bring them to collection centres where they are put down.

Thousands of dogs are killed every year in 'civilised' Europe too, a massacre in which Spain's 'perreras' – concentration camps for dogs where dogs (and cats) are put down 'legally' just a few days after being admitted – play a most efficient role. Not for nothing has Spain – like the majority of the States of the Council of Europe – still not ratified the 1987 Strasbourg Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals.

There is still widespread acceptance of the belief that animals do not have a soul, i.e. they are non-sentient, but countries that support recognition ethically and in law of pet animals' right to life and protection hold the opposite view. Despite promises of campaigns – including by Parliament through the Intergroup for animal welfare – collaborative projects between local and voluntary animal rights associations in other EU countries with animal welfare organisations represent the sole hope of escape for stray dogs, as stated by one such organisation, 'L'Arca di Noè' in Italy.

1. Would the Commission agree that this pointless violence against animals is the product of a barbaric subculture?
2. How does the Commission plan to help lessen instances of this brutality on its territory and to teach younger generations to respect sentient beings?
3. Why does it not organise an 'EU prize' for those voluntary associations and municipalities which best succeed in managing the problem of strays in their area without resorting to pointless acts of violence?