

**Question for written answer E-009291/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: EMODE - a new, user-friendly, scientific species assessment system

Thousands of animal species are legally traded as pets within the EU. The enormous diversity of these species results in costly, and largely unmanageable, demands in terms of policing the trade, safeguarding animal welfare, protecting human health from exotic pathogens and preventing the spread of invasive alien species.

In Belgium, a 'positive list' for mammals specifies the 42 species authorised for private ownership and, according to the Belgian Government, has reduced illegal trade and the number of animals in rescue shelters.

1. Will the Commission promote positive lists broadly based on the Belgian example as a 'best-practice model' for other Member States?

A new, user-friendly, scientific species assessment system called EMODE<sup>1</sup> has been developed to help determine which species are more suitable as pets.

2. Will the Commission promote EMODE, along with other available systems, to assist in establishing positive lists?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://emergentdisease.org/assets/documents/EMODE.pdf> and  
<http://emergentdisease.org/assets/documents/emode-brochure-screen.pdf>