

**Question for written answer E-012789/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Measures to combat the illegal trade in pets in the EU

The illegal pet trade continues to boom in Europe. In Spain alone the authorities estimate that 8000 dogs are imported each month, in deplorable conditions, without the required documentation.

The Member States – with the exception of Italy, where illegally trading in dogs or cats has been a criminal offence since 2010 – have so far failed to take any action or carry out the necessary inspections. The EU has similarly failed to introduce legislation, despite the request made by Parliament in 2012.

To combat this scourge, experts, NGOs, and the Commission, in its statement in Regulation (EU) No 576/2013, have stressed the need to introduce a compulsory system of identification and registration at EU level.

1. In view of its importance, and the answer to my written question (E-006548-15), when exactly will the study on the welfare of dogs and cats involved in commercial practices be published?
2. Will the Commission keep its promise to harmonise rules on pet identification and registration in the European Union after the publication of this study?
3. Does it intend to take any further steps to tighten up inspections and prevent the commercially motivated abuse that occurs under the current pet passport system?