

**Question for written answer E-009770/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

Subject: Rabies in dogs and the movement of pets within the European Union

According to a study dated 16 April 2015 and commissioned by the Global Alliance for Rabies Control, rabies is the cause of approximately 59 000 deaths each year worldwide. This corresponds to the loss of an estimated USD 8.6 billion per year in economic costs.

Rabies, spread in 99 % of cases by dogs, has been eradicated in most European countries but endemic prevalences still persist in some eastern European countries.

The harmonisation of EU and EEA Regulations on movement of animals (dogs, cats and ferrets), which came into force on 1 June 2012, led to blood tests on these pet animals being replaced by an up-to-date vaccination certificate. However a study dated 27 June 2015 by the Norwegian Veterinary Institute, involving 75 dogs with vaccination certificates from eastern European Member States, found that between 53 % and 95 % of these dogs did not present a sufficiently high level of antibodies.

Will the Commission take account of the aforesaid scientific conclusions in order to amend requirements concerning movement of pets within the European Union and the European Economic Area?