

**Question for written answer E-005053/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Purchasing pets online

Today, the widespread nature of the internet has meant that pet sellers can reach a much greater audience of potential buyers, in their own countries and abroad. Pet sellers are not required to register on websites with classified adverts and thus can remain anonymous. This practice has led to a sharp rise in illegal activities such as the importing and selling of exotic breeds of dogs and exotic animals.

The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe states that the illegal trade of pets can lead to financial and tax fraud, unfair competition, and organised crime. In addition to the fact that the practice is detrimental to animal welfare, it is worth considering the impact that it can have on public health, bearing in mind the risk of cross-border contagion of infectious diseases – including zoonosis.

Does the Commission plan to create a regulation on online animal trade under which it would be compulsory to have a public register of breeders and sellers?