

Question for written answer E-003939/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Miltiadis Kyrkos (S&D)

Subject: The unregulated trade in exotic pets in Greece

In 2017, a number of Greek non-governmental animal welfare organisations wrote to the Greek Ministry of Agriculture expressing concern about the unregulated trade in exotic animals and birds in pet shops, open markets or over the internet. Their proposal to the ministry at the time was to incorporate a restrictive 'positive list' into Greek animal welfare legislation for species not already covered by other legislation (the Habitats Directives, Birds Directives and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)). This would mean that any animal or bird not on the list would be banned from being imported or traded in. There is evidence suggesting that the exotic pet trade is one of the main pathways for the introduction of invasive alien species in Europe, which pose health risks to both humans, agriculture, livestock and native animals.

Given this EU-wide risk, is the Commission aware of any action being taken by the Greek Government to monitor the suspected growing trade in exotic animals in Greece?