

EN  
E-001551/2019  
Answer given by Vice-President Katainen  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(15.5.2019)

The welfare of companion animals in the EU, including hunting dogs referred to by the Honourable Member, is not the subject of EU legislation.

Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union<sup>1</sup> stipulates that: "*In formulating and implementing the Union's agriculture, fisheries, transport, internal market, research and technological development and space policies, the Union and the Member States shall, since animals are sentient beings, pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals...(...)*".

This article does not allow the Union to legislate on animal welfare as such. It is only when animal welfare issues may affect some EU policies that the Commission can propose legislation.

The Commission is launching an evaluation of the EU Strategy for the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2012-2015<sup>2</sup>, which was concluded in 2018. Based on its results, the Commission will assess *inter alia* whether there is a need for future initiatives, with due regard to the principles of proportionality and subsidiarity.

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<sup>1</sup> Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p. 47).

<sup>2</sup> COM(2012)6 final.