

**Question for oral answer O-000101/2018
to the Council**

Rule 128

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on behalf of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Subject: The illegal trade in companion animals in the EU

Each year a significant number of companion animals are illegally traded across the Member States, often in violation of the EU's pet movement legislation (Regulation (EU) No 576/2013), which is intended for non-commercial movements of pet animals. Commercial movement of animals across borders should be carried out under Council Directive 92/65/EEC.

The trafficking of companion animals has negative implications on public health, animal welfare and consumer protection. It has become a major source of income for organised international crime and also affects the smooth functioning of the EU internal market through loss of taxes and the creation of unfair competition, particularly with the increase in the online sale of companion animals, which is poorly regulated both nationally and under EU law. Indeed, some NGOs estimate that an illegal breeder selling breed dogs across borders could be making profits of over EUR 100 000 per annum.

In this context, we would welcome answers from the Council to the following questions:

What measures is the Council currently taking to tackle the illegal trafficking of companion animals?
What measures does it intend to take in the future? What is the timeline for those measures?

Tabled: 17.9.2018

Forwarded: 18.9.2018

Deadline for reply: 9.10.2018