

**Question for oral answer O-000102/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 128

**Renate Sommer, Pavel Poc, Mark Demesmaeker, Catherine Bearder, Keith Taylor, Stefan Eck,  
Julia Reid, Joëlle Mélin**

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 pets 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 pets, 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.

1. When does the Commission plan to adopt a cross-sectoral EU action plan to address the illegal trade in companion animals in the EU?
2. Does the Commission plan to come forward, via a delegated act under the Animal Health Law, with a proposal for detailed, compatible systems of identification and registration of cats and dogs in databases in the Member States, which should be linked through an EU platform?

Tabled: 17.9.2018

Forwarded: 19.9.2018

Deadline for reply: 26.9.2018