



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development  
The Chair*

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xx.03.2014

Mr Martin Schulz  
President of the European Parliament

Subject: Opinion on the motion for a resolution by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris on dealing with the problem of stray animals – B7-0079/2014, under Rule 120

Dear Mr President,

At the sitting of 6 February 2014, you announced that you had referred the motion for a resolution tabled by Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris on dealing with the problem of stray animals – B7-0079/2014, under Rule 120, to the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development as the committee responsible.

At their meeting of 11 February 2014, the committee coordinators agreed that an opinion in letter form on the motion for a resolution, under Rule 120(2), should be delivered.

The committee considered the motion for resolution at its meeting of 17/18 March 2014.

At this latter meeting<sup>1</sup> it adopted the conclusions below:

1. Despite an increase in the number of adoptions from animal shelters, the problem of stray animals is still far from solved in the EU.
2. The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development believes that the control methods used to date – most of which involve capture and sterilisation – have failed to stem the problem.
3. The committee notes that some Member States have employed drastic measures in this context, including euthanasia.
4. Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union requires the EU and Member States to ‘pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals’, since they are sentient beings; however, despite the fact that the EU animal welfare legislation covers a range of issues including breeding, slaughter and scientific research, it still contains no provisions on stray animals.
5. According to recent estimates, there are more than 100 million pets in the EU.
6. The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development therefore calls on the Commission to draw up general guidelines on dealing with the problem of stray animals in accordance with general animal welfare principles;
7. The committee considers that, by 1 January 2018, Member States shall introduce a registration requirement for dogs; moreover, the Commission shall submit to the European Parliament and the Council by 31 July 2019 a report on the experience of the Member States with the registration and identification of dogs, with particular reference to stray animals.
8. Furthermore, the committee calls on the Member States to use part of their structural funding to address the problem of stray animals, focusing first and foremost on the areas in which the problem is most acute.

I should be grateful if you would forward this opinion to the Commission

Yours sincerely,

**Paolo De Castro**

<sup>1</sup> With xx votes for, xx against and xx abstentions. The following were present for the final vote:xx.