



17.2.2012

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Subject: Petition 0595/2011 by Kendra Pinder (British), on alleged mistreatment of animals in Romania

1. Summary of petition

The petitioner claims that animals are mistreated in Romania where they are put to death by cruel methods. The example is given of the slaughtering of 220 dogs in Botoşani, where the killing continues, and of the slaughtering of horses in the Danube Delta. The petitioner points out that the killing of dogs has become a lucrative business, since for every animal killed a relative of a local official receives 100 euros. The petitioner also reports that corruption is ingrained and asks the European Union to monitor EU funds allocated to that Member State more closely.

2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 26 September 2011. Information requested from Commission under Rule 202(6).

3. Commission reply, received on 17 February 2012

The petitioner indicates that Romanian authorities are breaching animal welfare laws, referring mainly to the killing of stray dogs and wild horses in the Danube delta region. For this reason, he claims that the EU should stop providing funds to Romania, especially if money is being mismanaged by these authorities.

The Commission's observations

At present there is no EU rule on the killing of dogs, as has been pointed out in replies to

parliamentary questions such as E-06543/2011¹. The Commission considers that the Union has no competence for taking action in dog population management as there is no *prima facie* evidence that this activity interferes with one of the objectives of the Union. The debate on the capture of horses for slaughter in the Danube delta region does not appear to interfere with EU competencies either. The petitioner claims that Romanian authorities are openly corrupt and mismanage EU funds, but he does not provide specific evidence.

Conclusion

The Commission recognises that dog population management might raise animal welfare concerns. However, this matter remains under the sole responsibility of each Member State. The same conclusion applies as regards the culling of semi-wild horses collected in the Danube delta region of Romania.

The Commission can not investigate on allegations of mismanagement of EU funding without specific indication.

¹ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB>