



29.5.2015

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Subject: Petition No 0251/2014 by Pia Berrend (Luxembourgish) on the mistreatment of stray dogs in Romania

1. Summary of petition

The petitioner states that Romania uses only one method to control the dog population: euthanising stray dogs. The petitioner considers this practice to be contrary to European values and asks the European institutions to enforce Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 23 December 2014. Information requested from Commission under Rule 216(6).

3. Commission reply, received on 29 May 2015

The Commission would like to refer to its reply to Petition 694/2013.

Disease control/eradication programmes eligible for EU funding are limited to those referring to diseases listed in Annex I and II of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹. From this list, the only diseases where stray dogs and protection against epidemics may be linked are rabies and echinococcosis. Rabies is present in

¹ Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 laying down provisions for the management of expenditure relating to the food chain, animal health and animal welfare, and relating to plant health and plant reproductive material, amending Council Directives 98/56/EC, 2000/29/EC and 2008/90/EC, Regulations (EC) No 178/2002, (EC) No 882/2004 and (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Decisions 66/399/EEC, 76/894/EEC and 2009/470/EC (OJ L 189, 27.6.2014, p. 1).

Romania but is not maintained by stray dogs. Measures on stray dog population are not relevant for rabies eradication and do not qualify for EU funding.

The already on-going programmes and those to be approved for the next years do not have any co-funded measure related to the capture and killing of stray dogs.

As explained above, most of the issues raised in this petition are not under EU competence as defined in Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union concerning animal welfare and the Commission therefore cannot investigate a Member State on these grounds.

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has adopted an international standard for Stray Dog Population Control¹. The Commission is supportive of the OIE's ongoing work on the OIE Animal Welfare Platform for Europe. This platform aims to improve the practical application of OIE standards through several measures over a three year period between 2014 and 2016. In this context a workshop on stray dog management was held in June 2014 and 10 Balkan countries participated, including Romania. All participating countries agreed to fully apply the OIE standard on Stray Dog Population control by 2025 and to develop roadmaps to ensure that steady progress is made towards this goal. It should be noted that the OIE standard highlights amongst other the important role of local government agencies in the enforcement of national legislation, the necessity for promoting responsible dog ownership through various means such as training and many other measures to regulate dog reproduction, capture, rehoming, transport, and holding as well as minimum housing and care criteria.

Conclusion

The Commission can only act within the framework of its competences, and most of the issues raised by the petitioner are beyond them. Issues which fall within the remit of the EU (such as for example the disease control/eradication programmes mentioned above) have been addressed in part or are in the process

¹ http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_aw_stray_dog.htm.