

**Question for written answer E-002873/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Animal rights

In December 2017, the Spanish Congress unanimously supported the launch of a procedure to reform the Civil Code with the aim of removing the legal 'objectification' of animals and having them treated as 'living creatures with feelings', in the same way that Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France and Portugal have already done.

The import of live animals, whether domestic or exotic, carries a public health risk for Europeans as animals are not always checked for vaccination and disease in non-EU countries.

The breeding, purchase and sale of animals runs counter to this legal notion and is unethical. It equates animals with 'goods', and consequently people who acquire their lives by purchasing them are more likely to abandon them, since the transaction promotes their 'objectification'. This is why the breeding of animals for sale is the main cause of overcrowding in dog homes and shelters.

- (1) What action is the Commission taking, or intending to take, to stop the import of live animals, whether domestic or exotic, into the EU?
- (2) What action is it taking, or intending to take, to stop the breeding of animals for sale?