



Plenary sitting

B8-0256/2016

17.2.2016

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the introduction of compatible systems for the registration of pet animals
across Member States
(2016/2540(RSP))

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on behalf of the EFDD Group

**European Parliament resolution on the introduction of compatible systems for the registration of pet animals across Member States
(2016/2540(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission statement of 4 February 2016 on the introduction of compatible systems for the registration of pet animals across Member States,
- having regard to Article 43 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) on the functioning of the Common Agricultural Policy,
- having regard to Article 114 of the TFEU on the establishment and functioning of the single market,
- having regard to Article 168(4)(b) of the TFEU on measures in the veterinary and phytosanitary fields,
- having regard to Article 169 of the TFEU on consumer protection measures,
- having regard to Article 13 of the TFEU, which stipulates that, in formulating and implementing the Union's policies, the Union and the Member States shall, since animals are sentient beings, pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals,
- having regard to Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on the non-commercial movement of pet animals¹, and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 577/2013 of 28 June 2013 on the model identification documents for the non-commercial movement of dogs, cats and ferrets, the establishment of lists of territories and third countries and the format, layout and language requirements of the declarations attesting compliance with certain conditions provided for in Regulation (EU) No 576/2013²,
- having regard to Council Directive 92/65/EEC of 13 July 1992 laying down animal health requirements governing trade in and imports into the Community of animals, semen, ova and embryos not subject to animal health requirements laid down in specific Community rules referred to in Annex A (I) to Directive 90/425/EEC³,
- having regard to its resolution of 15 April 2014 on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on animal health⁴,
- having regard to the conclusions of the 3050th Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting of 29 November 2010 on the welfare of dogs and cats,

¹ OJ L 178, 28.6.2013, p. 1.

² OJ L 178, 28.6.2013, p. 109.

³ OJ L 268, 14.9.1992, p. 54.

⁴ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2014)0381.

- having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 of 9 December 1996 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein¹,
 - having regard to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 792/2012 of 23 August 2012 laying down rules for the design of permits, certificates and other documents provided for in Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating the trade therein and amending Commission Regulation (EC) No 865/2006²,
 - having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species³,
 - having regard to the Joint Declaration on Animal Welfare by Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands of 14 December 2014,
 - having regard to its resolution of 19 May 2015 on safer healthcare in Europe: improving patient safety and fighting antimicrobial resistance⁴,
 - having regard to the study conclusions from the Companion Animals Multisectorial Interprofessional and Interdisciplinary Strategic Think Tank on Zoonoses (CALLISTO),
 - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Commission has funded a study on the welfare of dogs and cats involved in commercial practices;
- B. whereas non-governmental organisations, law enforcement agencies, competent authorities and veterinarians have shown evidence of a growing illegal trade in pet animals, with widespread abuse of the Pet Travel Scheme, evasion of controls and document falsification;
- C. whereas abuse of the Pet Travel Scheme is now estimated to be the third most profitable illegal trade within the EU after narcotics and weapons;
- D. whereas the illegal trade in pets has been increasingly linked to serious and organised crime by non-governmental organisations, law enforcement agencies and competent authorities;
- E. whereas, despite recent improvements, major concerns still remain in terms of the information provided for Pet Passports, particularly as regards how the age given for an individual animal can be proved to be accurate;
- F. whereas the border-free Schengen Area not only provides for passport-free travel by citizens between Member States, but also facilitates control-free intra-Union travel for animals commonly kept as pets;

¹ OJ L 61, 3.3.1997, p. 1.

² OJ L 242, 7.9.2012, p. 13.

³ OJ L 317, 4.11.2014, p. 35.

⁴ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2015)0197.

- G. whereas pet animals that are traded illegally are often badly bred, poorly socialised and at increased risk of disease;
- H. whereas 70 % of the new diseases that have emerged in humans over recent decades are of animal origin, and animals commonly kept as pets are carrier hosts of over 100 zoonoses, including rabies;
- I. whereas purchasers of badly bred pets are often faced with unexpectedly high veterinary bills or the sudden death of their new pet;
- J. whereas the majority of Member States already have requirements of some form for the registration and/or identification of pet animals; whereas most of these databases are not yet linked to an EU database, which stands in the way of full traceability when pets are moved over EU borders;
- K. whereas the illegal trade in wild animals is one of the most extensive transnational organised criminal activities worldwide;
- L. whereas escapes of exotic or wild animals that have no natural enemies can lead to their uncontrolled spread, which affects the environment, public health and the economy;
1. Underlines the positive contribution that pet animals make to the lives of millions of individual owners and families across the EU, and reaffirms that owners should be able to travel with their pets in a safe, controlled manner throughout the Union;
 2. Welcomes the improvements to the Pet Travel Scheme introduced by Regulation (EU) No 576/2013, including the added security features contained in the Pet Passport;
 3. Notes with concern the evidence from non-governmental organisations, law enforcement agencies, competent authorities and veterinarians that clearly demonstrates the growing illegal abuse of the Pet Travel Scheme, which is being exploited for commercial purposes;
 4. Notes that the low rate of vaccination among illegally traded pets often means that they have to be treated with antibiotics; stresses that this increases the risk of antimicrobial resistance among pets; is concerned that this is an additional risk factor for the development and transmission of antimicrobial resistance in human beings;
 5. Recognises that poor socialisation is a leading factor in the behavioural problems of pets and that consumers buying poorly socialised animals put themselves and other animals at risk of being attacked or bitten;
 6. Recognises that while many Member States have mandatory systems for the identification and registration of pet animals, there are discrepancies as regards the type of information held, the animals covered by the identification and registration requirements, and the level of governance at which the information is held;
 7. Believes that a harmonisation of identification and registration requirements for dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*) and cats (*Felis silvestris catus*) would reduce the scope for document falsification and illegal trading, thus protecting public and animal health and

providing for effective intra-Union traceability;

8. Notes with concern the growing illegal trade in wild animals commonly kept as pets;
9. Believes that a harmonisation of identification and registration requirements for wild animals commonly kept as pets would reduce the scope for the illegal trade, would better protect public and animal health and biodiversity, and should also provide for effective intra-Union traceability;
10. Calls on the Commission, upon the entry into force of the Regulation on Transmissible Animal Diseases, to adopt a delegated act forthwith, laying down rules pursuant to Articles 108, 109 and 118 of the regulation with detailed, harmonised requirements for the means and methods of identification and registration of dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*) and cats (*Felis silvestris catus*);
11. Calls on the Commission, upon the entry into force of the Regulation on Transmissible Animal Diseases, to consider adopting delegated acts laying down rules pursuant to Articles 108, 109 and 118 of the regulation with detailed, harmonised requirements for the means and methods of identification and registration of the following pet animals, as defined by Annex 1 of the same Regulation: reptiles, birds (specimens of avian species other than domestic fowl, turkeys, guinea fowl, ducks, geese, quails, pigeons, pheasants, partridges and ratites), rodents and rabbits other than those intended for food production;
12. Calls on the Commission to ensure that the requirements in paragraphs 10 and 11 ensure that the disease prevention and control measures provided for in the Regulation on Transmissible Animal Diseases are efficiently applied and that they facilitate the traceability of these pet animals, their movements within and between Member States and their entry into the Union;
13. Calls on the Commission to explore the additional measures to combat the illegal trade in pet animals contained in the conclusions of the study on the welfare of dogs and cats involved in commercial practices, and to publish those conclusions without delay;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.