

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3324/09
by Alyn Smith (Verts/ALE)
to the Commission

Subject: Number of horses being transported for slaughter

Concerns have been raised with me by a number of my constituents concerning the apparent sudden and dramatic increase in the numbers of horses being transported to the Netherlands for slaughter for human consumption.

The Eurostat database reports that in 2006, four horses were transported for slaughter, in 2007, the number of horses transported for slaughter was 35 986 and in 2008, 28 731 horses were transported for slaughter.

Can the Commission confirm that the above figures from Eurostat are correct? Can the Commission also provide me with the necessary figures from the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) database for the number of equidae entering the Netherlands for slaughter for the years 2006, 2007 and 2008?

I am also aware that there would appear to be some discrepancies between the Eurostat and ISTAT databases regarding the number of equidae entering Italy for slaughter for human consumption. Can the Commission provide the necessary figures from the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) database for the number of equidae entering Italy for slaughter for the years 2006, 2007 and 2008?