

**Question for written answer E-004656/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE) and Oreste Rossi (PPE)

Subject: Abruzzo regional law on access to beaches for domestic animals

A new law passed in the Italian region of Abruzzo gives pet owners the right to take dogs and cats on to beaches, subject to compliance with the applicable safety rules. The law, which also gives municipal authorities and the operators of bathing establishments the right to impose restrictions on pet access, has a twin objective: increasing seaside tourism in the Abruzzo region, and combating the widespread phenomenon whereby domestic animals are left unattended for long periods during the summer. The law stipulates that animals must remain within the areas delimited by the sunshades rented out by bathing establishments and, at all events, in the immediate vicinity of their owners; it also guarantees unrestricted access to beaches for guide dogs. Lastly, it bans animals from certain specific places, such as swimming pools, beach showers and children's playgrounds.

1. Is the Commission aware of this regional law?
2. Have similar laws been passed in other Member States?
3. Are there European rules governing access for domestic animals to public places?