

**Question for written answer E-005539/2017/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: The disparate nature of animal welfare in Europe

Despite an ever increasing number of EU texts on the subject, how animal welfare is handled varies from one Member State to another. In six countries (Austria, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Luxembourg and Sweden), animals are extremely well protected by law while other countries seem to be rather more lax. There seems to be an enormous difference in the way animals are protected across Europe as a whole.

Several particularly pleasing steps have been taken outside the EU: Switzerland, for example, has incorporated a special animal protection mandate into its constitution and the canton of Zurich has a state-appointed lawyer to represent animals in court.

What is the view of the Commission on this matter?