

**Question for written answer E-001277/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Marlene Mizzi (S&D)

Subject: Animal welfare - dog fighting

Despite measures having been taken, dog combats are still occurring in various locations. This is an extremely dangerous practice and the dogs involved are treated very cruelly. Animal protection associations are advocating change, but nothing has yet been put in place to avoid dogs being trained as killing machines and other small animals being used as training bait, causing irreparable physical damage to all of them.

The dogs used for these combats belong to certain types of breeds that are prohibited within the EU, yet still present. What action is the Commission planning to ensure more effective cooperation between animal protection associations, law enforcement bodies, customs officers and other relevant stakeholders, with a view to putting an end to this criminal practice?