

**Question for written answer E-004183/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Dita Charanzová (Renew)

Subject: Online sales of dogs and cats

The illegal pet trade is a growing problem in Europe and throughout the world. Pets are illegally bred in 'puppy mills' and sold in unregulated online sales, which usually mean no checks have been carried out on pets' health and on compliance with welfare rules. The EU Coordinated Control Plan (CCP) on online sales of dogs and cats, in which 17 Member States voluntarily performed a check of online sales in their countries, showed that pet farms and illegal trafficking to neighbouring countries are a real issue in Member States and that there is a need for action to be taken. According to the press, the Commission intends to transform its Recommendation of 16 August 2018 into legislation, which will hopefully help to combat the illegal pet trade.

1. Does the Commission intend to transform its recommendation into legislation?
2. If so, what is the timetable for this legislation?
3. What other measures does the Commission intend to take to combat the illegal trafficking and illegal online sales of dogs and cats?