Question for written answer E-005433/2020 to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Timing of the Commission’s replies to complaints related to animal transport

In May 2016 a number of complaints related to the failure by 13 EU Member States to comply with Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport\(^1\) were submitted to the Commission. Between 3 June and 10 July 2020, the Commission informed the complainants of its decision to proceed with the closure of these cases.

Can the Commission explain why it failed to react to these complaints within the one year time limit and why the timing of its replies coincides with the period during which Parliament decided to set up a Committee of inquiry on animal transport?

Moreover, for many of these complaints, the Commission has justified its decision on the basis of commitments undertaken by Member States rather than concrete progress in their compliance with the relevant EU legislation.

Has the Commission verified the implementation of the measures communicated by the Member States or did it close the cases solely on the basis of their statements?

Furthermore, the complainants were only given four weeks to submit any new information that might demonstrate the existence of an infringement of EU law.

Can such a time frame be considered adequate, given that providing such information would require significant time and resources and might entail new in-field investigations?