

**Question for written answer E-002134/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Petras Auštrevičius (Renew)

Subject: The illegal pet trade and organised crime

The illegal trade in companion animals bears all the hallmarks of organised crime. Indeed, in its strategy to fight organised crime, the Commission mentioned that animals continue to be trafficked for sale as pets, often on a large scale and sometimes with potentially devastating consequences.

1. How does the Commission plan to address this issue?
2. Does the Commission intend to establish an EU taskforce to tackle the illegal cross-border trade in animals and ensure funding for cross-border enforcement projects?

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