

Question for written answer E-003140/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
Annika Bruna (ID)

Subject: Digitisation of animal health certificates with a view to more effective combating of puppy trafficking in Europe

Further to my written question E-005450/2020¹ entitled 'Tighter controls for trade in puppies within the European Union', the Commission stated that it was aware of non-compliances regarding trade in and imports of dogs.

It pointed out, however, that the legal framework had been strengthened by Regulation 2016/429, which made it mandatory to register dog breeding establishments and approve shelters and assembly centres from which dogs may be moved to other Member States. That regulation has been applicable since 21 April 2021, together with the regulation on official controls.

Puppy trafficking is still going on, however. On 18 October 2023, more than 400 animals – mainly dogs from breeding centres in eastern Europe – were rescued in Spain. Once again, the Spanish police found that documents, passports and certificates relating to animal health contained 'anomalies'.

In order to reduce fraud, does the Commission propose to bolster legislation, for instance by requiring digitisation of animal health certificates and other documents issued by competent authorities so as to ensure that they are authentic and can be accessed by authorities in other Member States via an on-line database?

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¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-005450_EN.html