## Question for written answer E-003229/2023

## to the Commission

Rule 138
Petras Auštrevičius (Renew)
Subject: The lack of reliable data on the commercial movements of cats and dogs
It is estimated that there are 104 million dogs and 127 million cats in Europe, with a substantial percentage being commercially transported between EU Member States and imported from outside the EU.

Determining the exact number is vital in order to monitor their welfare closely and to understand market trends better. While such statistics are available for other species, in the specific case of cats and dogs, they are proving very difficult to obtain.

The TRACES system is meant to provide for traceability and information exchange to ensure data accuracy and help decision-making. When there is no data or the existing data is incomplete, the objectives of TRACES, namely consumer protection, animal health, welfare and public health, are jeopardised.

1. Can the Commission provide the figures for commercial imports and intra-EU transport of cats and dogs and explain how this data might be obtained directly?
2. How can a generic and unspecific Harmonised System (HS) code such as 'Live animals (excl. horses, asses, mules, hinnies, bovine animals, swine, sheep, goats, poultry, fish, crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates, and microorganic cultures etc.)' provide accurate numbers on the transport of cat and dogs when a large number of other 'live animals' are counted in the same group?

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