

**Question for written answer E-001074/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Martin Buschmann (NI)**

Subject: Spain's persistent violation of EU animal welfare provisions and laws

EU animal welfare provisions and laws reflect, inter alia, what are termed the five freedoms: (1) freedom from hunger or thirst, (2) freedom from discomfort, (3) freedom from pain, injury or disease, (4) freedom to express normal behaviour, and (5) freedom from fear and distress.

For many years, however, Spanish authorities have accepted that hunting dogs can inter alia be hanged from trees, doused with acid or chained to moving cars in order to see which animal is best suited for hunting. These atrocities, and many others, are tolerated and go unpunished despite clearly violating numerous EU animal welfare provisions and laws.

More than 50 000 hunting dogs, including breeds such as Galgos and Podencos, fall victim to this cruel and disgusting 'tradition' every year.

1. How is it possible for an EU Member State to violate EU animal welfare provisions and not be penalised?
2. Are the Spanish authorities allowed to explicitly exclude Spanish hunting and working dogs from the scope of animal welfare laws?
3. Why is the Commission turning a blind eye and not analysing why, for more than nine years, protest marches by more and more people, accompanied by extensive media coverage, have been taking place in more and more cities in Europe, and beyond, in support of Spanish hunting dogs and against Spain's animal welfare law?

Submitted: 11.4.2024