



21.5.2019

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Subject: Petition No 1114/2018 by M. S. (Finnish) on the alleged cruel treatment of dogs in Cyprus

1. Summary of petition

The petitioner denounces the allegedly cruel treatment of hunting dogs in Cyprus, estimated at 125.000, most of which are kept in cages located in home courtyards, close to dwellings, further afield in the fields and in the mountain area and which can be heard constantly barking, at times continuously for up to 5 hours. She claims that animal protection authorities will not act as long as the dogs get water and food.

2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 21 March 2019. Information requested from Commission under Rule 216(6).

3. Commission reply, received on 21 May 2019

The Commission's observations

The Commission is aware that the welfare conditions of dogs, including those kept in shelters, may be problematic in some Member States of the European Union.

However, since this matter is not governed by EU legislation, the welfare of dogs falls under the sole responsibility of Member States.

The Union has limited competence in the area of animal welfare. In accordance with Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Union has to pay full regard

to the welfare requirements of animals in formulating and implementing certain EU policies, such as agriculture or internal market.

Conclusion

Due to limited Commission competences, the welfare of dogs in shelters remains the sole responsibility of Member States.