NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Subject: Petition No 1868/2014 by Wolfgang Arnold (German) on stopping the killing of stray dogs in Romania

Petition No 1484/2016, submitted by Mircea Serbanoiu (Romanian) on ill-treatment of stray animals in Romania

1. Summary of petition 1868/2014

The petitioner asserts that Romania is in receipt of EU funds to ensure that dogs are properly housed and looked after. He complains, however, that the dogs are being brutally slaughtered and calls on the European Union to put a stop to the killing. The petitioner states that animals are sentient beings who suffer like people and that Romania, as an EU Member State, has an ethical duty to treat them humanely.

Summary of petition 1484/2016

The petitioner asks the European Parliament to urgently adopt a framework law regarding animal welfare, including stray animals. This law should include dog population management, rabies vaccination, sterilisation, promotion of responsible pet ownership and prohibition of putting to sleep dogs which do not suffer from incurable diseases, in compliance with the Written Declaration pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure on dog population management in the European Union and with the Report on the European Union Strategy for the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2012-2015. The petitioner calls on the European Parliament to take urgent steps to put an end to cruelty against animals.

2. Admissibility

Petition 1484/2016 declared admissible on 21 April 2017
Information requested from Commission under Rule 216(6), (new Rule 227(6)).
3. **Commission reply**, received on 18 February 2020

**The Commission’s observations**

The control of the companion animal population, including the welfare of stray dogs, is not governed by EU rules and remains under the sole responsibility of Member States.

With reference to the need for appropriate dog handling and shelter management, it is important to recall that the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has adopted international standards on stray dog population control¹. These standards highlight the important role of the local government agencies in the enforcement of legislation relating to dog ownership, the control of stray dogs and the alleviation of the problems stray dogs cause in their jurisdiction.

It is up to each Member State, as full member of the OIE, to consider how they might most appropriately use these international guidelines in their national context.

The Commission has no information on EU funds paid to Romania in order to ensure that dogs are properly housed and looked after.

**Conclusion**

The welfare of stray dogs is not subject to EU rules and the Commission, thus, has no legal power to intervene on this issue.

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¹ [http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_1.7.7.htm](http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_1.7.7.htm)