

**Question for written answer
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Written question on the welfare of equidae

Equines suffer significant welfare problems across Europe due to a lack of enforcement of EU legislation on equine identification and registration, and the inadequacy of the national law in ensuring equine protection.[1] For example in Greece, a central database, a mandatory obligation pursuant to Regulation (EC) 2015/262, has not been established. Currently, equids that are transported across the country for different purposes are accompanied by a document issued by veterinarians, a certification system put in place in 2002 and never updated. Horses are therefore officially registered only by responsible owners or when imported.

The complete lack of enforcement of EU requirements results in the impossibility to determine the real size of the equine population in Greece, facilitates the illegal trade and leave animal abandonment, cruelty and abuse unpunished.

Has the Commission investigated the enforcement of Regulation (EC) 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and Regulation (EC) 2015/262 on the identification and registration of equines in Greece, as well as in other Member States?

What specific measures does the Commission intend to take in order to ensure that a central national database is established?

[1] See: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+REPORT+A8-2017-0014+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>; <http://www.eurogroupforanimals.org/wp-content/uploads/EU-Equine-Report-Removing-the-Blinkers.pdf>