

Reply from the President of the European Parliament dated 29 January 2016

Dear Ms Wasström,

The President of the European Parliament (EP), Mr Martin Schulz, has received your message concerning the proposed amendments to the [Regulation on animal health](#).

The Citizens' Enquiries Unit of the EP has been asked to reply.

As far as the European Parliament is concerned, it attaches great importance to animal welfare, and we thank you for your support of the proposed amendments to the regulation. All future developments in the procedure are available in the Legislative Observatory, the EP's database for monitoring the EU decision-making process, under reference [013/0136\(COD\)](#).

Although Article 13 of the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#) requires paying full regard to the welfare requirements of animals when formulating and implementing some EU policies, it does not give a legal base nor require addressing all animal welfare issues. The welfare of stray animals is therefore not governed by EU rules and remains under the sole responsibility of the Member States.

In view of a large number of petitions received from EU citizens, a [resolution on the establishment of an EU legal framework for the protection of pets and stray animals\[2012/2670\(RSP\)\]](#) was adopted on 4 July 2012. This resolution calls on the Commission to put forward, inter alia, rules for the identification and registration of animals.

In addition, the EP's [Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals](#) is working to ensure that full regard is paid to the welfare requirements of animals. Please consult their website for more information.

Finally, if you wish to send your observations to the MEPs of your choice, you may contact them directly through the following [webpage](#).

We hope this is of interest and thank you for contacting the European Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

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