

**Question for written answer E-002928/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Maria Ohisalo (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Protection of hunting dogs in Spain

Roughly speaking, between 50 000 and 100 000 hunting dogs, glagos and podencos, are killed in Spain every year when the hunting season ends.¹

This is based on an old belief that the more a dog suffers when dying, the more it will bring the hunter good luck the following hunting season. The dogs are killed in the most horrendous ways: they are hanged, beaten, burned, pelted with stones, poisoned, dragged behind a vehicle or thrown into a ravine. Dogs are also abandoned after the hunting season, which is another major problem.

It has been challenging to do anything about this, because rules on animal welfare have largely been left to the individual countries to decide on, which means that Spain cannot be obliged directly to improve the situation for hunting dogs through any EU legislative procedure.²

The European Commission updated its animal welfare strategy in 2020³, since when steps have been taken to safeguard animal welfare, including rules at EU level. In December 2023, the Commission published a proposal for a Regulation on the welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability⁴.

1. What is the Commission's assessment of how the forthcoming Regulation will also improve the situation for Spanish hunting dogs?
2. Does the Commission intend to propose legislation that would provide for minimum standards at EU level to protect all animals?

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¹ <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/spanish-galgo-hunting-dog-killing-welfare>

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-9-2020-000675-ASW_EN.html

³ https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-welfare/evaluations-and-impact-assessment/revision-animal-welfare-legislation_en

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FI/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52023PC0769>.