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VETER 2

NOTE

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| Origine: | Secrétariat général du Conseil |
| Destinataire: | Délégations |
| Objet: | Législation de l'UE relative à la détention commerciale et à la vente de chiens |
| | – Informations communiquées par la délégation danoise |

Les délégations trouveront en annexe une note d'information de la délégation danoise sur le sujet visé en objet, qui sera abordé sous le point «Divers» lors de la session du Conseil «Agriculture et pêche» du 17 janvier 2022.

EU legislation on the commercial keeping and sale of dogs

Information from the Danish delegation

There is a huge market for dog trade in the European Union and in recent years, the market seems to have increased. Denmark is experiencing an increasing number of problems related to trade of dogs originating from other countries – puppies as well as adult dogs.

In Denmark, there have been several reports of imported dogs with health problems such as parasites or viral diseases and some with injuries. Furthermore, there have been reports on dogs with behavioural problems such as aggression or anxiety and reports of puppies under eight weeks old being sold. It can be very difficult for the buyers of dogs to know the conditions under which the dogs and puppies have been raised, even though it has a big impact on the dogs' mental and physical health.

Right now, there are no common standards or rules for commercial keeping of dogs in the EU. In 2007, Denmark introduced regulation for the keeping and handling of dogs for commercial purposes to ensure animal welfare and health. The Danish regulation contains legal requirements for, among others, the interior design of the facilities, where dogs are kept, as well as provisions regarding care, vaccination and socialization of dogs, and education of the responsible manager.

Furthermore, the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration carry out regular control of dog facilities and breeders in order to ensure animal health and welfare. The control results are publicly available, so potential pet owners have the possibility to be better informed and thereby avoid to buy the puppy from establishments, which do not comply with the requirements and rules.

There is a need to improve the animal welfare and health for dogs kept for commercial purposes in the EU as well as protection of consumers, when they are buying a dog. Denmark finds that common EU regulation is needed to ensure enforcement of the same level of animal welfare for dogs and ensure consumer protection.

Therefore, the Commission is invited to introduce common EU legislation for the commercial keeping and sale of dogs as part of the planned revision of the animal welfare legislation in the EU. Hereby ensuring modern, non-discriminatory, proportionate and necessary regulation within the frame of the Single Markets rules.

In addition, Denmark would also like to share the experiences with the Danish regulation from 2007 and to exchange ideas and best practice in order to support a general improvement of dog animal welfare and consumer protection in Europe.