

**Question for written answer E-014583/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Export of live animals and conditions of slaughter

Each year, over three million animals are exported from the European Union (EU) to third countries. This trade causes suffering to animals in terms both of transport and the conditions of slaughter in the countries of destination. An enquiry carried out by CIWF, Eyes on Animals, AWF and Animals Australia into conditions of slaughter in certain countries uncovered some extremely bad practices which breached the recommendations of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

The EU is in a position to act. It could replace exports of live animals by exports of meat, or at least ensure that the animals which it exports are treated in accordance with OIE recommendations on transport and slaughter in third countries. Finally, the EU should play a proactive role in providing technical assistance to the importing countries so that they improve their animal welfare standards.

1. Does the Commission envisage proposing a ban on animal exports to countries which do not guarantee compliance with the OIE's minimum recommendations?
2. What steps does the Commission plan to take to ensure proactive assistance to the importing countries with regard to slaughter, particularly through association agreements and the European Neighbourhood Policy?