

TONIO BORG

MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear Minister,

It is with a great sadness that I learnt about the tragic accident in which a four-year-old boy was mauled to death by a pack of stray dogs three weeks ago.

In such circumstances, a deep emotion of the population of Bucharest is of course understandable as well as the pressure on public authorities to take measures for preventing such dramatic situations in the future.

Therefore I acknowledge and respect the Romanian Parliament's adoption of a law which will allow local authorities to apply euthanasia of dogs that have stayed more than 14 days in a shelter.

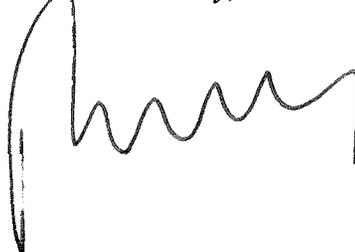
Nevertheless, despite the absence of EU legal competence regarding the treatment of stray dogs, I would like to recall the recommendations on stray dog population control of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

The European Union supported the adoption of these OIE recommendations which envisage the killing of dogs, provided that it is undertaken without causing unnecessary or avoidable animal suffering. In addition it needs to be used together with other control measures in order to have long term effects. Such other control measures include education and legislation for responsible ownership, registration and identification of dogs and reproductive control (chemical or surgical sterilisation and contraception).

Romania as a member of the OIE is responsible for implementing such recommendations that represent an important technical reference to control stray dog population.

In the spirit of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and in particular its Article 13 which acknowledges that animals are sentient beings, I wish to call upon you to ensure the full compliance with the OIE recommendations on stray dog population control.

Yours sincerely,



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