

**Question for written answer E-000212/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Marianne Vind (S&D)**

**Subject:** Ban on the import and breeding of inbred dogs and dogs with overly small skulls

On 4 October 2023 the Commission brought forward a proposal for a revised Animal Welfare Act<sup>1</sup>. However, the proposal does not include a ban on the breeding of pets with the aim of obtaining specific external characteristics which are harmful to the animal. Nor does it ban the import of such pets. This is despite the fact that such breeding causes chronic and painful suffering to the animal, and that countries including the Netherlands and Norway have brought in national bans on the breeding of flat-faced dogs.

On 18 January 2024, the Danish Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries stated in the Danish Parliament<sup>2</sup> that a Member State cannot bring in a national ban on importing inbred animals, as this is at odds with EU rules on the free movement of goods. A national ban on inbreeding would have little effect if it could be circumvented by imports from other Member States where such breeding is authorised.

1. Is the Commission planning to bring forward a ban on the breeding of pets with the aim of obtaining specific external characteristics that could subject the animals concerned to painful suffering?
2. Can an EU Member State impose a national import ban on inbred animals without such a ban infringing EU internal market trade rules?

Submitted: 24.1.2024

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<sup>1</sup> Commission proposal on the welfare and traceability of dogs and cats

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ft.dk/aktuelt/webtv/video/20231/salen/46.aspx#> – Point 8: 1st reading of B 47: Ban on the import and breeding of flat-faced dogs and dogs with unnaturally small skulls.