



The Greens | European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament

Brussels, 21 March 2018

Dear President Tajani,

By a letter dated 07 February 2018, a request to set up a temporary Committee of Inquiry to investigate alleged contraventions and maladministration in relation to the implementation by EU Member States and enforcement by the Commission of the Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport within and outside the EU was transmitted to the Conference of Presidents (CoP). The request was signed by 223 Members of the European Parliament, more than one quarter of all members, meaning that it has gathered the necessary support according to Rule 198 (1) of the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure (RoP).

According to Rule 198, it is the prerogative of the CoP to decide on a request for an Inquiry Committee. These competences have been further specified in the legal opinion SJ-0046/15 prepared by European Parliament's Legal Service, following a request of the Conference of Presidents on 15 January 2015¹. According to paragraph 27 of the opinion, the competence of the CoP solely consists of its right to either refuse or approve the request made. Paragraph 28 further stipulates that it is not within the competence of the CoP to "modify or rectify a duly lodged request".

The decision taken by the CoP on 15 March not to vote on the request for an Inquiry Committee on the protection of animals during transport but to instead launch a special implementation report of Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005 therefore constitutes a clear violation of the CoP's competence with regards to the process for requests for Inquiry Committees as lined out in Rule 198 of the RoP and in the legal opinion named above.

Based on the arguments presented, we ask that the request for a Committee of Inquiry will be put on the agenda of the next CoP and that the CoP takes a formal decision.

Sincerely yours,

Ska Keller

Philippe Lamberts

Co-Presidents
Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament

¹ Reference of the legal opinion: SJ-0046/15, D(2015)4652, Request for the setting-up of an inquiry committee on matters relating to tax rulings in the Members States _ Compatibility with the applicable rules.