

E-0400/06EN

Answer given by Mr Rehn  
on behalf of the Commission  
(27.2.2006)

The question of the Honourable Member covers an aspect of the Commission's task to monitor Bulgaria's efforts to transpose, implement and enforce the EU acquis. In this context, the Commission is aware of the particular needs for Bulgaria not only to implement the EU standards on Animal Welfare, including the rules on animals kept in zoos, but also to enforce them.

A Peer Review is currently being carried out by the Commission, with the help of Member State experts, to analyse the state of preparedness of Bulgaria in the area of animal welfare. This review covers the requirements of the relevant Council Directive 1999/22/EC<sup>1</sup>. It is the intention of the Commission to discuss the results of the review with its Bulgarian counterparts in the regular meetings held under the Europe Agreement, and to report on the issue in the forthcoming Progress Report.

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<sup>1</sup> Council Directive 1999/22/EC of 29 March 1999 relating to the keeping of wild animals in zoos, OJ L 94, 9.4.1999