



# Commission proposal on the welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability



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# Slides content

Commission's proposal main elements

Draft Council mandate (negotiating position) containing main amendments to the Commission's proposal

Next steps

# Why EU action?

## Internal market compromised

- 72 million dogs and 83 million cats in EU
- Trade accounts for EUR 1,3 Bn
- No EU welfare rules & different national rules = Uneven playing field for operators

## Illegal trade

- Legitimate operators under pressure from illegal traders
- Consumers not protected from fraud

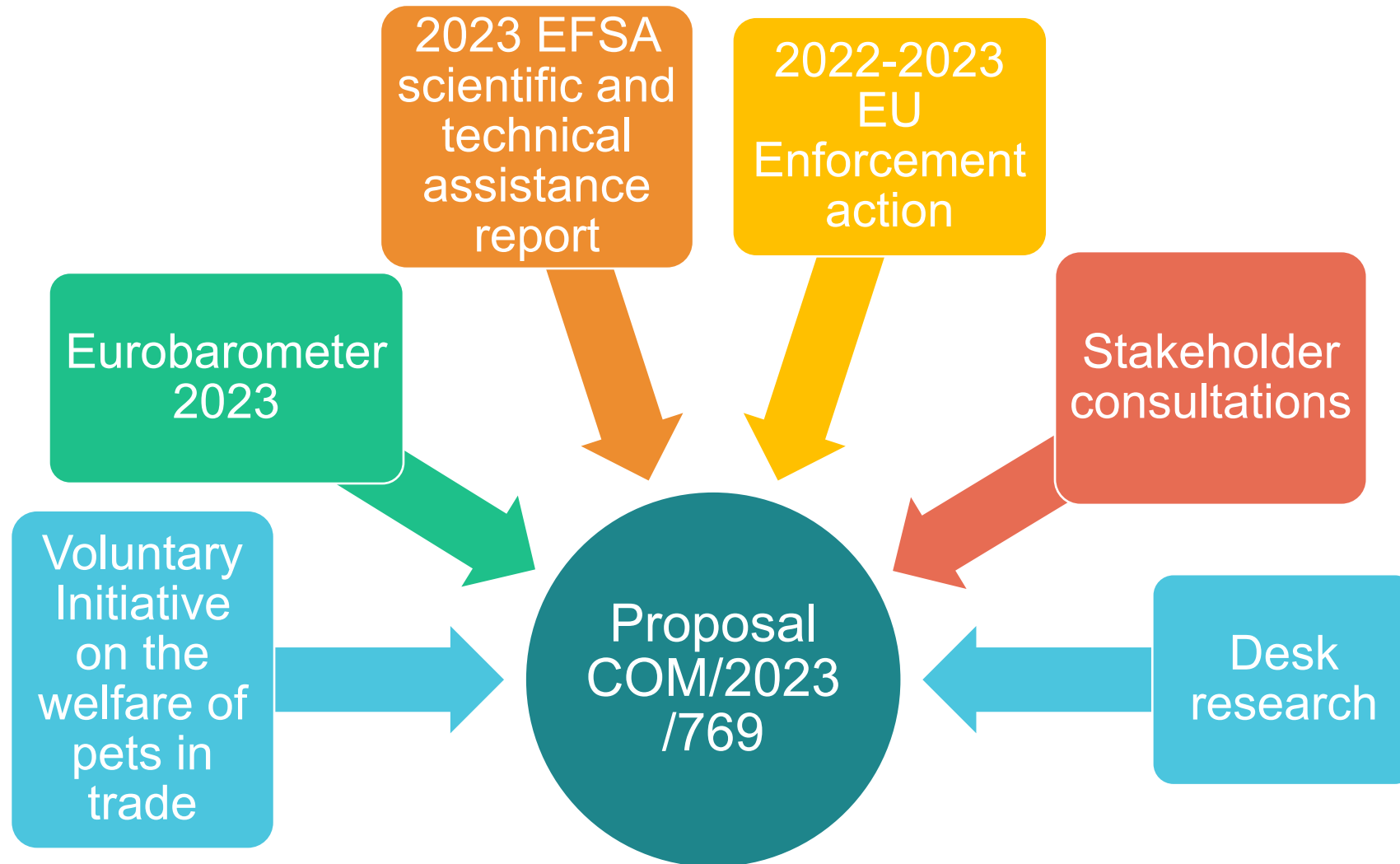
## Suboptimal animal welfare

- Lack of welfare rules at EU level
- Limitations in traceability of dogs and cats

## Citizens' expectations

- Eurobarometer 2023 - 74% of citizens want better protection of companion animals

# Sources of data input for proposal



**Commission Staff Working Document summarizing supporting evidence (SWD(2024)88)**

# Data on illegal trade of cats 2020-2024

Cat related notifications  
in i-RASFF

- 1 out of 10 notifications involve cats

Commercial movements  
disguised as non-  
commercial

- Fraudulent practice to be tackled

# 1 – Who? establishments keeping/breeding

Breeders, Pet shops, Shelters

- Main operators that place on the market

Threshold to exempt small operators

- Different for each type of operator

Requirements based on welfare principles

- Tailored to each type of operator

# 1 - establishments - general requirements

## Caretakers

- Sufficient number
- Competent

## Animal welfare visits

- Annual visit and advice from a vet
- Recording of findings and follow-up

## Provide information to acquirers

- on welfare
- on responsible ownership

# 1 - establishments - specific requirements

## Feeding and watering

- Frequency
- Colostrum
- Weaning age

## Housing

- No keeping in containers (limited derogations)
- Temperatures, lighting, space allowances

## Health

- Daily inspections
- Prevention of common diseases
- Onset of reproduction, frequency of pregnancies
- Older animals, retirement



# 1 - establishments - specific requirements

## Behaviour

- No restraining (few exceptions), no tethering
- Socialisation
- Enrichment

## Painful practices

- No mutilations (exception for medical reasons)
- Neutering by a vet under anaesthesia and analgesia
- No painful handling practices

# 1 – breeding establishments

## Breeding strategies

- Non harmful
- Prohibition of inbreeding

## Approval by competent authorities

- Once, before onset of activities
- On-site inspection
- Certificate of approval

## 2 - traceability

### Obligation for

- Any transfer of ownership of dog or cat in the EU market
- Includes imports

### Identification of dogs and cats

- Implantation of a microchip by a vet or assistant

### Registration of microchips

- In national databases
- Databases will communicate (interoperable)

## 2 - traceability

### Suppliers must provide to acquirers

- proof of identification and registration
- basic information (origin, species, breed, sex)

### Acquirers' power to verify

- Via an EU online system checking the identification and registration
- Online advertisements will signal the possibility of verification

# 3 - dogs and cats entering the EU

## Third countries must

- meet EU or equivalent requirements
- be listed by Commission

## Establishments must

- meet EU or equivalent requirements
- be listed by 3<sup>rd</sup> countries' competent authorities

## Animals must be

- accompanied by attestation of compliance (official certificate)
- registered in a national database within 48 hours

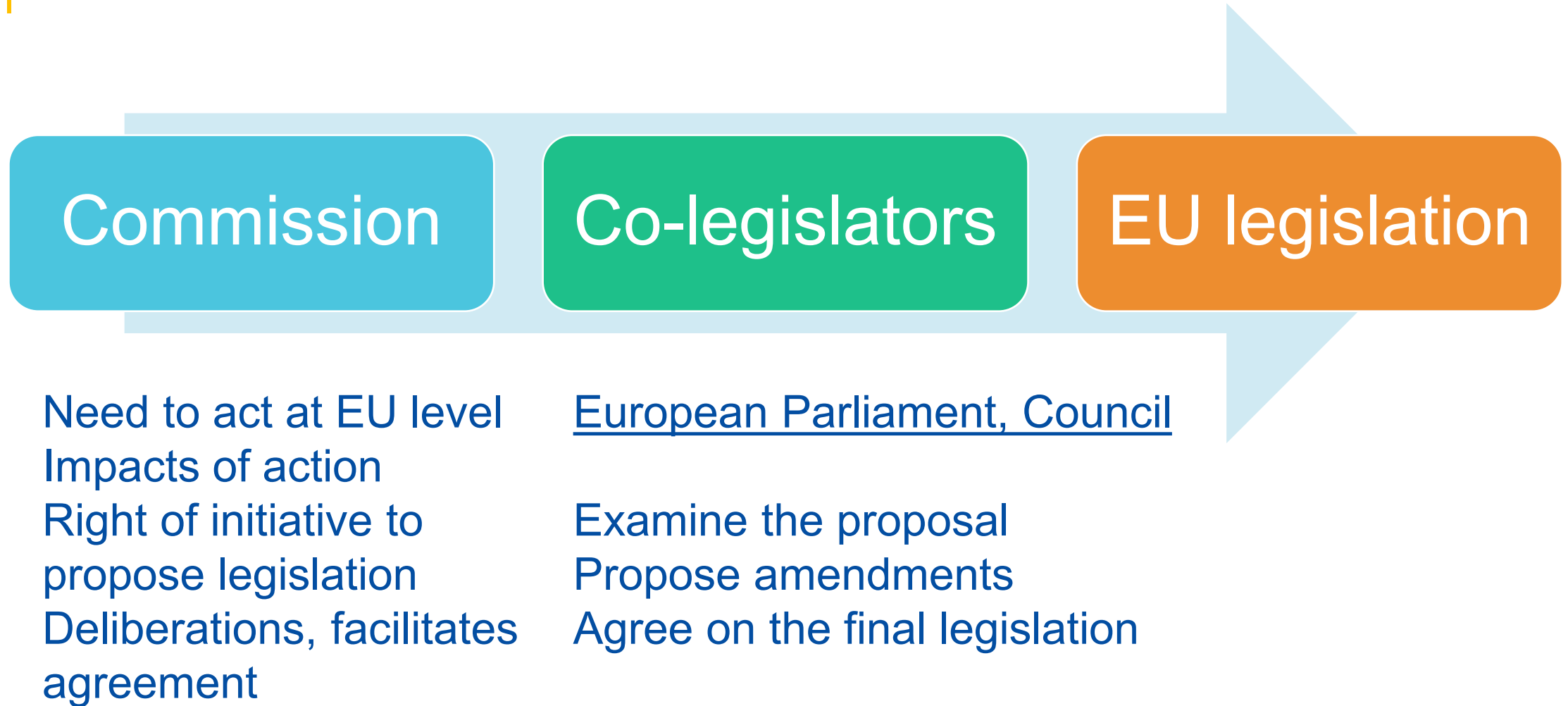
# Council adopts negotiating mandate

Proposes a series of draft amendments to the Commission proposal, some of which introduce additional draft measures such as:

- Ban of hybrids
- Limit the number of births for breeding after C section is performed
- Extreme traits excluded from breeding
- No shows and competitions for animals with extreme conformational traits

<https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-11615-2024-INIT/en/pdf>

# How EU lawmaking works



# 1<sup>st</sup> EU law on welfare of dogs and cats



**Proposal** : [EUR-Lex - 52023PC0769 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

**Staff Working Document** : [https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/caf8cd1d-967a-4e60-a0e5-19401be1c6b3\\_en?filename=aw\\_awp\\_leg\\_dog-cat\\_swd-2024-88.pdf](https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/caf8cd1d-967a-4e60-a0e5-19401be1c6b3_en?filename=aw_awp_leg_dog-cat_swd-2024-88.pdf)



Thank you

