

Dear Mr. General Secretary Davis,
Dear Ms. Vice General Secretary de Boer-Buquicchio,

Our interest group named IG Schattenhunde has been active for animal protection in the Republic of Turkey for 6 Years. We work together with Turkish animal lovers.

The Republic of Turkey signed the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals SEV No 125 on 18. November 1999. The Convention became operative on 1. June 2004.

As a Basic consensus the signing member states agree on a closer alliance in order to support the ethical commitment, hence, humans have to respect all creatures.

Furthermore, the agree that common and fundamental guiding principles of attitude and behavior towards animals are not only a desirable but also a realistic target of the Council of Europe and its members.

Regrettably, despite the agreement with the Council of Europe and despite the Turkish Animal Protection Law § 5199 from 2004 the Republic of Turkey shows an unacceptable treatment of animals namely, the strays and the animals in the shelter.

We are able to present photographs, videos and reports from local eyewitnesses coming from different Turkish regions. These documents prove animal's abuse and clear offences against current law and the defiance of the Convention with the Council of Europe.

To give an impression of the situation of animals in Turkey as it is described above we recommend the photo album under the link:

<http://www.schattenhunde.de/hp/fotos-turkei.html>

The current issue leading to our request is the case of a shelter in Foca. The community as the responsible authority does not take care of the animals. They just feed the animals infrequently and only after Turkish animals lovers urged them to. The food is poor and not sufficient. The drinking water is disgusting. Consequently, the animals are skin and bones; they suffer from diseases and do not get any medical care and die.

Chapter V article 15 of the Convention says:

Articel 15 – Multilateral consultations

1. The Parties shall, within five years from the entry into force of the Convention and every five years thereafter, and, in any case, whenever a majority of the representatives of the Parties so request, hold multilateral consultations within the Council of Europe to examine the application of the Convention and the advisability of revising it or extending any of its provisions. These consultations shall take place at meetings convened by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.
2. Each Party shall have the right to appoint a representative to participate in these consultations. Any member State of the Council of Europe which is not a Party to the Convention shall have the right to be represented by an observer in these consultations.
3. After each consultation, the Parties shall submit to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe a report on the consultation and on the functioning of the Convention including, if they consider it necessary, proposals for the amendment of Articles 15 to 23 of the Convention.
4. Subject to the provisions of this Convention, the Parties shall draw up the rules of procedure for the consultations.

As the Conversation between the Council of Europe and the Republic of Turkey became operative on the first of June, 2004 and the appropriate time-limit has expired we kindly request you to inform us, whether an inspection through the European Council has taker place soon. If this is not the case yet, we request the Council of Europe to confront the Republic of Turkey with the abuses, and instigate an examination in order to produce relief for the animals.

Finally, we have a last question:

Why has the Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals SEV No. 125 not been includes in the EU Treaty in order to ensure a wide range of animal protection regulation even for the strays and the animals in shelter? As long as the matter of homeless animals is not under the protection of the EU Treaty hence not community Law, animals are at the mercy of the arbitrariness of the reticular country. This can surely not be in accordance with the basic consensus of the Council of Europe and the signing member states.

We look forward to your reply

Yours sincerely