



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 10 September 2013

13460/13

**AGRI 552
VETER 82**

NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: Delegations

Subject: Transparency of the Trade Control and Expert System – data on live animals

Delegations will find attached an information note from the NL delegation to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 23 September 2013.

Transparency of the Trade Control and Expert System – data on live animals

The Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) is an information system managed by the European Commission for the notification, certification and monitoring of consignments of live animals and certain animal products that are imported, exported and transported in intracommunity trade flows. The Member States are obliged to register all necessary information in the system.

The system contains an extensive amount of information on trade flows of live animals, ranging from the country of origin to the trade volume. The Netherlands aims for a maximization of transparency and availability of data to the public on this matter. Ideally, the European Commission could publish online available data on the number of trade in live animals or enable Member States to do so.

From this frame of reference and as a result of a national debate on animal welfare and clinical trials in relation to imports and intracommunity trade in live apes, the Netherlands asks the European Commission to share its view on the transparency and availability to the public of the number of trade in live animals in TRACES.
