

**Question for written answer E-002172/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Methane emissions in agriculture, in particular animal farming

Methane may have the greatest impact on climate change and be a more dangerous gas for the environment than carbon dioxide, according to scientific research. In 2021 the EU signed the Global Methane Pledge to reduce methane emissions by 30 % from 2020 levels by 2030. The Commission furthermore proposed a regulation on methane emissions reduction in the energy sector, which Parliament voted on in May 2023. The regulation's explanatory memorandum states that fossil fuels are responsible for only 25-33 % of anthropogenic methane emissions, while agriculture accounts for up to 50 %.

Scientists and NGOs have proposed measures for the transformation of agriculture. One such a solution is the Plant Based Treaty, which proposes a transition away from animal-based food systems to plant-based systems.

1. In the Commission's opinion, given the scale of methane emissions from agriculture, are the agriculture measures in the explanatory memorandum sufficient to reduce methane emissions by 30 % by 2030?
2. Will the Commission propose additional measures for agriculture to achieve this goal, and if so, when and what measures?
3. The Commission has access to scientific knowledge on the sources of methane emissions and their effects, so will it use the expert recommendations in the Plant Based Treaty?

Submitted: 11.7.2023