

**Priority question for written answer P-003061/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Francisco Guerreiro (Verts/ALE), **Tilly Metz** (Verts/ALE), **Sylvia Spurek** (Verts/ALE), **Anja Hazekamp** (The Left), **Mick Wallace** (The Left), **Marc Botenga** (The Left), **Róza Thun und Hohenstein** (Renew), **Pierre Larrouturou** (S&D), **José Gusmão** (The Left), **Marisa Matias** (The Left), **Alice Kuhnke** (Verts/ALE), **Pär Holmgren** (Verts/ALE), **Jakop G. Dalunde** (Verts/ALE), **Anna Deparnay-Grunenberg** (Verts/ALE), **Marcel Kolaja** (Verts/ALE), **Pascal Durand** (S&D), **Robert Biedroń** (S&D), **Niels Fuglsang** (S&D), **Marianne Vind** (S&D), **Caroline Roose** (Verts/ALE), **Emil Radev** (PPE), **Clare Daly** (The Left), **Manuela Ripa** (Verts/ALE), **Maria Noichl** (S&D), **Heidi Hautala** (Verts/ALE), **Günther Sidl** (S&D), **Malte Gallée** (Verts/ALE), **Aurore Lalucq** (S&D), **Martin Buschmann** (NI), **Sirpa Pietikäinen** (PPE), **Mikuláš Peksa** (Verts/ALE), **Kira Marie Peter-Hansen** (Verts/ALE), **Margrete Auken** (Verts/ALE), **Ville Niinistö** (Verts/ALE), **Marie Toussaint** (Verts/ALE), **Jiří Pospíšil** (PPE), **Nikolaj Villumsen** (The Left), **Saskia Bricmont** (Verts/ALE), **Sara Matthieu** (Verts/ALE), **Martin Häusling** (Verts/ALE), **Grace O'Sullivan** (Verts/ALE), **Irena Joveva** (Renew), **Raphaël Glucksmann** (S&D), **Mounir Satouri** (Verts/ALE), **Erik Marquardt** (Verts/ALE), **Damien Carême** (Verts/ALE), **Sarah Wiener** (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Commission, where is the promised animal welfare legislation?

As part of the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Commission pledged to review EU animal welfare legislation by 2023. It also assured citizens that this review would include a proposal to prohibit the inhumane and unethical practice of caging in farming, in response to the demands of the over 1.6 million citizens who signed the European Citizens' Initiative 'End the Cage Age'. The Commission's positive response to the petition raised hopes among citizens that the EU genuinely listened to and wanted to act upon their concerns.

However, the Financial Times reported that three EU officials with knowledge of the matter had stated that the Commission had abandoned these proposals entirely. This development is concerning, raising questions about the EU institutions' democratic credibility.

1. Will the Commission present new animal welfare legislation and a Sustainable Food System framework by the promised deadline of the end of 2023? Will this include a ban on animal caging in farming, as promised?
2. If not, is the Commission going back on its commitments because of pressure from the industry and the forthcoming elections?
3. Does it recognise that by postponing adequate legislation to protect animals and foster a sustainable food system, the EU is only deepening the ecological crisis?

Supporters¹

Submitted: 17.10.2023

¹ This question is supported by Members other than the authors: Rosa D'Amato (Verts/ALE), Thomas Waitz (Verts/ALE), Milan Brglez (S&D)