



Plenary sitting

15.5.2015

B8-0512/2015

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 133 of the Rules of Procedure

on animal welfare at battery farms in the European Union rearing rabbits for their meat

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Motion for a European Parliament resolution on animal welfare at battery farms in the European Union rearing rabbits for their meat

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Articles 3 and 4 of Council Directive 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes,
- having regard to Rule 133 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas each year over one billion rabbits are reared in the European Union for their meat, their fur or for animal feed;
- B. whereas most rabbits are reared on battery farms, a method which does not respect the physiological or ethological needs of these animals (living area the size of an A4 sheet of paper, not enough hay – the basic foodstuff for lagomorpha – to eat, etc.);
- C. whereas it should be remembered that the constraints these animals are subjected to lead to aggressive behaviour (serious injuries, self-mutilation, cannibalism, etc.) and a very high mortality rate;
- D. whereas the French national agency ANSES reports that farmed rabbits are fed too many antibiotics, entailing a real danger for public health;
- 1. Calls for battery farms rearing rabbits for their meat to be swiftly replaced by farming models concerned for animal welfare as laid down in Articles 3 and 4 of Directive 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998;
- 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission, the Council and the Member States.