

**Question for written answer E-006881/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Stefan Eck (GUE/NGL) and Anja Hazekamp (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Atrocities - 'Toro de la Vega'

In Tordesillas, Spain, the yearly event 'Toro de la Vega' will take place next Tuesday 16 September 2014. Hundreds of people will join in a chase on foot and horseback, with the objective of hunting a bull and stabbing it to death. To which extent does the Commission agree with us that a cruel, unnecessary and atrocious activity such as 'Toro de la Vega' is incompatible with Article 13 TFEU, which defines animals as 'sentient beings'?

Although it is not always clear if Article 13 TFEU constitutes a legal base for the EU to act on animal welfare issues, can the Commission state in detail whether Article 352 TFEU constitutes a legal base for the banning of 'Toro de la Vega', recalling that a proposal currently exists to ban the cloning technique on animal welfare and general ethical grounds?

To which extent does the Commission agree that a framework law on animal welfare is urgently needed at EU level in order to give animals the necessary legal protection which reflects the shared values enshrined in the constitutional provisions of the EU Treaties?