

**Question for written answer E-008006/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Emma McClarkin (ECR)

Subject: Bison farming

I have been contacted by a constituent regarding the farming of American bison, the legal requirements around which are very complicated:

1. Classifying bison as bovine. In the UK, bison are classified as wild animals. Could the Commission please advise on the EU's classification and definition of bison?
2. Cattle ear-tagging. Bison must be ear-tagged within nine months of their birth. However, handling bison can be very difficult at any stage, causing stress levels that can kill animals. The EU requires all bovine animals to be ear-tagged. Are there any exemptions or derogations bison farmers can seek beyond the nine months?
3. TB testing. EU regulation on bovine TB requires TB skin tests. However, this method does not work on bison and therefore gamma blood testing is used. The EU does not recognise this when granting 'TB Free' status. How can bison be traded if they cannot be approved as 'TB Free'?