

**Question for written answer E-010485/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Norbert Erdős (PPE)**

Subject: Reintroduction of protein feed of animal origin in poultry feeding

The reintroduction of cross-feeding in poultry feeding seems to have stalled following preparatory work.

As a result of the EU's strict animal welfare, environmental and food safety regulations, its poultry sector is at a competitive disadvantage when compared with producers outside the EU. Unfortunately the internal market does not guarantee higher prices for safer, higher-quality EU poultry products than for imported products. Hungary's poultry farmers are concerned – in particular because of the forthcoming EU-US agreement and the current duty-free import of poultry from Ukraine – as the production costs for poultry products are much lower in both countries than in the EU as a result of their lax animal welfare, environmental and food safety regulations.

The poultry sector does not receive EU funding, so that in the event of market disruption, producers have only themselves to fall back on. For example, Hungary's poultry farmers are losing EUR 9.8 million a year because of the Russian agricultural embargo.

If protein feed of animal origin were used, European poultry farming would require less outlay and we would be at less of a competitive disadvantage. I am therefore keen to see the Commission's new proposal on the reintroduction of protein feed of animal origin.

1. When will the Commission submit its proposal on the introduction of cross-feeding in the poultry sector?
2. What will the basic principles and main elements of the proposal be?
3. What measures would the Commission take if the European poultry sector were to face bankruptcy in the future?