

**Question for written answer E-015054/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Research on alternatives to force-feeding in the production of foie gras

The 1999 Recommendations of the European Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for Farming Purposes state in Article 24(1): 'Countries allowing foie gras production shall encourage research on its welfare aspects and on alternative methods which do not include gavage.'

Can the Commission:

1. Provide a list of the countries currently producing foie gras by gavage?
2. Indicate in which of these countries research has been carried out on the welfare aspects of gavage and on alternative methods since 1999?
3. Provide details on such studies (title, authors, publishers, funders, etc.)?