

**Question for written answer E-002990/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)**

Subject: Causes of animal abuse in abattoirs

In France, the recent release of several videos highlighting some of the conditions in which animals are being slaughtered has helped raise public awareness of this issue. We need now to tackle the causes of these practices, which occur frequently and are increasing alarmingly, and France is not the only country concerned.

According to specialists in the sector, the main cause is the pressure to maximise profits, which is behind the increasingly high rates of slaughter. Consequently, employees are becoming used to treating animals violently and abusively. In addition, the requirement to stun animals is not applied in certain ritual slaughter procedures, and this is often misused for commercial reasons as it is less profitable to use a double line. All this leads to unacceptable practices, such as animals being cut up while still alive.

1. Does the Commission acknowledge that the search for ever greater profitability of slaughter lines is behind much of the abuse?
2. What arrangements does the Commission envisage or support for ending animal abuse in European abattoirs?