

**Question for written answer E-004421/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Mark Demesmaeker (ECR) and Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Foie gras: studies on alternative methods not including 'gavage'

In his answer of February 2016 to Written Question E-015054/2015, Commissioner Andriukaitis writes: 'With regard to research into alternatives to force feeding, the Member States are not under an obligation to report to the Commission on this matter. The Commission thus does not have an overview of studies that have been performed on this topic.'

In his answer of March 2015 to Written Question E-000034/2015, Commissioner Andriukaitis states: 'The Commission encourages Member States in which foie gras production is allowed to conduct studies on alternative methods which do not include 'gavage', as recommended in the abovementioned Recommendations of the Council of Europe. Research has been carried out in the main producer countries.'

In this connection, the Commission is asked to answer the following:

1. Can it explain how, in practice, it has encouraged, and is encouraging, Member States in which foie gras production is allowed to conduct studies on alternative methods which do not include 'gavage'?
2. If it 'does not have an overview of studies that have been performed on this topic' and is not able to provide details on such studies as requested in Written Question E-015054/2015, what was the basis for the statement of March 2015 that 'research has been carried out in the main producer countries'?