

**Question for written answer E-006658/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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

Subject: Research into alternatives to forced feeding in the production of foie gras

In his answer E-004421/2016 of 28 July, Commissioner Andriukaitis provided the clarification that ‘the statement of March 2015 should have read that “research has been carried out by the main producer countries”. However, as previously stated, Member States are not obliged to report regularly to the Commission with specified information on research that has been conducted. For this reason the Commission does not have a systematic and comprehensive overview of research into alternative methods to the force feeding of ducks for foie gras production that has been done by the Member States concerned.’

However, in our view the absence of a systematic and comprehensive overview does not mean that the Commission has no specific information about research conducted by the producer countries. Without that information, after all, the Commission would not have been able to state in a well-founded manner that ‘research has been carried out by the main producer countries’.

1. Can the Commission give details of all relevant research at its disposal (authors, titles, dates of publication, etc.)?
2. If not, on what grounds did the Commission state that research had been carried out by the main producer countries?