

**Question for written answer E-009023/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)**

Subject: Rules on the slaughter of pregnant cows

In November a video caused a great stir in France. The film shows cows hung by the feet for 25 minutes to make their fetuses drown inside them. Next the cows' wombs are opened, and the calves fall flat on the ground and are then thrown into the bin. Some calves are perfectly formed, just a few days from being born.

This practice, which is legal, is apparently due to financial reasons, since a pregnant cow weighs more and will therefore be sold for a higher price. According to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), studies carried out in Germany, Italy, Belgium, and Luxembourg show that 10% to 15% of cows are pregnant when they are slaughtered.

Under Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97 females may not be transported or slaughtered if they are more than 90% into their pregnancy.

1. Does the Commission think that the state of affairs described above is consistent with the 'welfare requirements of animals' as 'sentient beings' referred to in Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)?
2. Will it act on the German Government's proposal to prohibit the slaughter of any cow in the last three months of its pregnancy?