Question for written answer E-009680/2016 to the Commission Rule 130 Keith Taylor (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Climate change and meat consumption

Studies indicate that our diets – with their high levels of meat and dairy consumption – will make it almost impossible to meet the Paris Climate Agreement's targets. To meet those targets, all sectors need to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. However, research shows that on a business-as-usual basis agriculture's emissions will increase substantially by 2050 and that a reduction in meat and dairy consumption in much of the world is needed if agriculture's emissions are to be reduced.

A 50 % reduction in EU meat and dairy production and consumption would lead to a 19-42 % reduction in GHG emissions. Co-benefits would include a 20 % reduction in the use and pollution of ground- and surface-water, a 23 % reduction in cropland use, a 37-42 % reduction in reactive nitrogen emissions and a reduction in non-communicable diseases.

- 1. What steps does the Commission plan to take to inform the public about the relationship between diets and climate change?
- 2. What assessment has the Commission made of the impact on climate change and public health of the Commissioner for Agriculture's plan to promote increased meat consumption?
- 3. What assessment has the Commission made of the impact of EU meat production and consumption on deforestation in South America?

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