

**Question for written answer E-006665/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Identification system for sheep and goats

In Portugal and elsewhere in Europe animals are identified by means of eartags, together with a second means of electronic identification (such as a ruminal bolus or electronic chip), in addition to movement documents, updated herd registers on every holding or assembly centre and a national database.

Animals must be identified within six months of birth and, in any case, before leaving the holding.

In the case of sheep and goats reared in extensive farming conditions or outdoors, the time limit is nine months.

The failure of producer associations, in particular health protection associations, to respond in time has led to delays in fulfilling the necessary requirements for producers to register their animals and obtain funding.

In view of this, is the Commission prepared to introduce a simplified system of identification to resolve solve this problem, which greatly penalises smaller herds in less favoured or mountain areas?