

**Question for written answer E-003164/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Nessa Childers (S&D)

Subject: Amending Regulation 543/2008

For over three years, MEPs, NGOs, and EU citizens have been asking the Commission to draw up a proposal to amend Regulation 543/2008 by deleting the reference to the minimum weight of livers that can be sold as 'foie gras', thereby eliminating the de facto obligation to force-feed ducks and geese. This act with no budgetary implications would allow consumers to drive change to improve animal welfare.

The answers to questions E-001666/2018 and E-001918-18 state that the evaluation of EU marketing standards covering various agricultural products, including poultry meat, announced by the Commission in 2016 and launched in June 2017 'will be finalised with the publication of a Commission staff working document in the first half of 2019'.

The need to wait for the outcome of this evaluation in order to propose the deletion of the reference to the minimum weight of livers in Regulation 543/2008 is not apparent.

Could the Commission explain the nature of the information it is currently lacking in order to decide whether or not to propose this simple change, and what new elements can be expected to emerge from the evaluation on this specific point that could influence its decisions on this matter?