Question for written answer E-004569/2019

to the Commission

Rule 138

Anja Hazekamp (GUE/NGL)

Subject: EU ban on imports of the hormone PMSG from pregnant mares

The production of PMSG causes serious animal welfare problems, such as the regular excessive extraction of blood from pregnant mares. In response to Written Question No 1765/2016, the Commission indicated that it was aware that mares were being mistreated in third countries in order to extract blood.

Regulation (EU) 2019/6 on veterinary medicinal products provides that producers of veterinary medicinal products may only use active substances produced in accordance with good manufacturing practice for active substances. In addition, the only active substances from animals that may be used are those produced in accordance with animal welfare standards applicable in the EU and internationally.

1. Does the Commission consider that all the PMSG that is imported into the EU has been manufactured in accordance with animal welfare standards applicable internationally and in the EU, and can it ban the import of PMSG on the basis of animal welfare requirements, as referred to in Regulation (EU) 2019/6?

2. Article 93(2) of the Regulation provides that the Commission shall adopt measures on good manufacturing practice for veterinary medicinal products. When will the Commission adopt measures leading to a ban on imports of PMSG?

3. What measures does the Commission intend to take in order to create a more sustainable, animal-friendly and organic farming system where there is no place for products such as PMSG?