

**Question for written answer P-009187/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Norbert Erdős (PPE)

Subject: Commission draft regulation on the zootechnical and genealogical conditions for trade in breeding animals and their germinal products within the EU

By its very nature, animal breeding is closely connected to the culture and traditions of the country or region where it takes place. This is understandable, as the different agricultural and environmental characteristics of Europe's regions mean that their inhabitants have developed different breeding methods over the centuries. Accordingly, the Member States have introduced different rules concerning breeding. To date, EU law has approximated these only to the extent necessary, in the form of directives.

The proposed draft regulation would interfere with the Member States' self-determination in this matter in a way which would restrict the present versatile breed use and limit the freedom to make breeding decisions.

On the one hand, the Member States would not be able to introduce standards for their own breeding cultures and would be less able to monitor and protect endangered and indigenous breeds. Animal genetic resources would also be reduced..

On the other hand, implementing the regulation would lead to a decline in national breeding programmes and the concentration of the production of breeding animals to the benefit of a few capital-rich companies. This would cause irreversible damage to Europe's versatile breeding culture and practice, which has firm historical traditions in many Member States.

1. What are the reasons for putting forward the regulation?
2. How will the proposed regulation enable the EU to guarantee complete adherence to the obligations arising from the international Convention on Biological Diversity?
3. How does the Commission intend to protect and prioritise the interests of less capital-rich animal breeders operating as SMEs?