

**Question for written answer P-002247/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Karin Kadenbach (S&D)**

Subject: Long-awaited report on the socio-economic implications of a mandatory labelling scheme for the production of chicken meat

Billions of broiler chickens reared in the EU are suffering from health and welfare problems as a result of selection for fast growth<sup>1, 2</sup> and the predominant intensive and confined production method. Broiler chicken rearing is also responsible for the emergence of some antimicrobial-resistant strains of bacteria, which pose a serious threat to public health<sup>3</sup>. Reducing the need for preventive and metaphylactic antibiotic use can be achieved by employing better farming practices and using higher-welfare, more robust animal breeds<sup>4</sup>. Giving consumers transparent information on chicken meat production methods can drive demand for better farming practices, as demonstrated by the case of shell eggs. It can also stimulate breeding companies to invest more in selecting higher-welfare breeds.

The EU, however, has so far been rather passive on this issue. Article 5 of Council Directive 2007/43/EC states that the Commission should, by no later than 31 December 2009, have produced a report on the possible introduction of a specific harmonised mandatory labelling scheme for chicken meat, to include considerations on its possible socio-economic implications.

Does the Commission recognise the importance of providing consumers with complete and transparent information?

Why has the Commission not yet delivered the report as provided for by Article 5 of Directive 2007/43/EC? When is it planning to produce it?

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<sup>1</sup> EFSA, 2010. Scientific Opinion on the influence of genetic parameters on the welfare and the resistance to stress of commercial broilers, <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2010.1666/epdf>

<sup>2</sup> Commission report on the impact of genetic selection on the welfare of chickens kept for meat production (COM(2016)0182).

<sup>3</sup> <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2018.5182/epdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/antimicrobial-resistance>