



12.3.2012

0006/2012

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on the implementation of the ban on individual sow stalls by 1 January 2013

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Lapse date: 14.6.2012

0006/2012

**Written declaration on the implementation of the ban on individual sow stalls by
1 January 2013**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Council Directive 2008/120/EC of 18 December 2008 on the protection of pigs,
 - having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the obligation to convert individual sow stalls into group housing is to be implemented by all holdings in the EU by 1 January 2013,
- B. whereas implementation of this directive results in, on average, a 2 % increase in production costs,
- C. whereas only three Member States (LU, SE, UK) already comply, while four others expect to comply on time (DE, DK, IE, LT),
1. Calls on the Commission and the Council Presidency to maintain the deadline of 1 January 2013 for implementing the directive on the protection of pigs;
 2. Is concerned that most producers will not implement the requested conversion to group housing on time, and emphasises that the national authorities should do their utmost to help producers comply, especially in the case of those struggling with administrative obstacles beyond their control such as lengthy permit procedures;
 3. Denounces the widespread non-compliance with the directive on the protection of laying hens; requests that enforcement of the directive on the protection of pigs be treated as a priority so as to avoid a repetition of this inadmissible situation;
 4. Considers that enforcement of EU animal welfare legislation is indispensable to ensure both fair competition between producers and the credibility of EU standards vis-à-vis consumers and trade partners;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission, the Council and the national authorities concerned.