

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0859/09
by Mogens Camre (UEN)
to the Commission

Subject: Plucking of live geese in Hungary

On 1 February 2009, the Swedish TV channel, TV4, showed a programme in the channel's series of documentaries entitled '*Kalla Fakta*'. In the programme, a journalist equipped with a hidden camera paid a visit to a farm in southern Hungary which produces goose down for use in duvets and pillows, etc. The programme showed workers on the farm plucking feathers from live geese, which is extremely painful for the animals and prohibited in the EU.

The programme also claims that a representative of the German firm, Rhodex, which supplies down to numerous European companies, made an offer to a journalist - pretending to be a duvet producer interested in buying down - to draw up documentation in connection with a possible purchase to show - falsely - that the Hungarian down did not come from live geese.

The Commission should make a closer investigation of this case to clarify to what extent the allegations made in the above programme are credible. Cruelty to animals is a serious matter and, should the allegations prove to be true, the Commission must take steps to ensure that this form of cruelty is stopped.

Will the Commission take the initiative to investigate whether the allegations about the plucking of live geese on a farm in Hungary, made in a '*Kalla Fakta*' documentary broadcast on the Swedish TV channel, TV4, on 1 February 2009, are correct? If the allegations are substantiated, what steps will the Commission take to put an end to the plucking of live geese, which is prohibited in the EU?