

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3959/09
by Béla Glattfelder (PPE)
to the Commission

Subject: Animal welfare measures, force-feeding of geese

Animal welfare standards in the EU are much stricter than in our main agricultural competitor countries. The strict standards do not apply to imported products.

What action is the EU taking, in the context of multilateral negotiations within the WTO, to promote the recognition of animal welfare measures as measures aimed at restricting imports?

Goose liver is one of Hungary's main agricultural export products. Thousands of families make a living from the force-feeding of geese and the production of goose liver, particularly in the Great Hungarian Plain (Alföld), which is a disadvantaged region.

Hungary currently applies a derogation with respect to force-feeding geese. When the moratorium lapses, what regulations will apply to this field?