

**Question for written answer E-005188/2012
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Joanna Senyszyn (S&D)

Subject: Rights of animals and their defenders

Towards the end of April 2012, a group of animal rights activists freed caged dogs from a laboratory animal breeder on Green Hill farm – part of Marshall Farm Inc. – in Montichiari, Italy. According to the animal rights activists, the imprisoned animals had been brutally experimented on. They had fresh, undressed wounds. They were housed in cages in a windowless corridor. Among other things, the dogs had their vocal cords cut out so that they could not bark or whine during the tests. Under Italian law, one of the Polish activists is facing a penalty of four to ten years in prison merely for opposing the abuse of animals – which is prohibited by EU law – in a Member State.

1. Can the Commission examine the state of the animals on this farm and determine whether the experiments conducted there are in accordance with the current directive, and undertake steps to prevent the aforementioned scandalous practices?
2. Is it possible to monitor the implementation of Directive 2010/63/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2010 on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes, so that, in the final phase of implementation, it is possible to determine any related problems or shortcomings?
3. Increasingly, we hear of animal rights activists being detained and treated like dangerous criminals. A human can fight for their rights, but an animal cannot. Therefore, can the Commission support the animal rights activists who often bring to light serious cases of animal torture in the EU?

If animal testing is unavoidable, animals should be provided with the best protection before, during and after the experiment; welfare that is legally compliant; and the course of the experiments must also be strictly regulated in terms of ethics. That is why I am asking the Commission for an urgent response in this matter.