

**Question for written answer E-010605/2012
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: French definition of 'foie gras'

Under Commission Regulation (EC) No 543/2008 (and previous Regulation (EEC) No 1538/91), force-feeding is not a prerequisite for classifying livers as 'foie gras'. However, since 2005, 'foie gras' has been defined in French national law as the liver of a bird fattened by force-feeding.

1. Hence, the French definition prevents any fatty liver obtained by alternative methods to force-feeding from being considered or marketed as 'foie gras' in France. How does the Commission intend to lift the obstacle to the marketing of 'foie gras' obtained by alternative methods created by such a restrictive definition?
2. A Recommendation from the Standing Committee of the European Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for Farming Purposes allows force-feeding only where currently practised, under the condition that research on alternative methods is encouraged. How does the Commission intend to ensure that national laws in 'foie gras'-producing countries do not jeopardise EU requirements on the development of alternatives to force-feeding in 'foie gras' production?