

**Question for written answer E-006292/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Sophie Auconie (PPE)

Subject: Animal welfare rules within the context of EU-US trade negotiations

Agriculture and, more generally, the agri-food sector will play a key part in the forthcoming trade negotiations between the United States and the European Union. A trade agreement will only be accepted if it provides economic benefits for both sides of the Atlantic, without jeopardising the values of the two parties.

In this respect, for many years the EU has taken measures to protect animal welfare, particularly with regard to animals' farming, transport and slaughter conditions.

- What rules are in force in the United States in terms of animal welfare?
- Are the restrictions which apply to the United States the same as those imposed upon our farmers?
- If not, what measures could be taken to prevent US farmers from gaining a competitive advantage over European farmers as a result of less stringent animal welfare legislation?