

**Question for written answer E-009993/2013  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Jill Evans (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Genetically modified animals

I have received a large amount of correspondence from constituents concerned about the use of genetically modified (GM) animals in farming in the EU.

There are a number of reasons why the EU should not allow the use of GM animals in farming. The first relates to animal welfare: the methods for producing GM animals can have unpredictable results and lead to GM animals suffering from diseases, organ failure and deformities. Furthermore, a large number of animals are needed in order to carry out tests and these animals are often kept in deplorable conditions.

There is also an ethical issue about changing the genetic makeup of species and mixing genes from different species. Huge problems could also occur if GM animals are allowed to breed with non-GM animals.

Finally, there is a risk to human health. There has been a great deal of debate surrounding GMOs, especially following the publication by Professor Gilles-Éric Séralini of the results of his research on the effects of GMOs on rats. These results showed that GMOs caused the rats to develop large tumours. In light of these findings, the EU needs a real debate on whether GM animals have a legitimate role to play in its farming.

1. Does the Commission agree that there are many issues surrounding GM animals, such as animal welfare and ethical issues?
2. Does the Commission agree that Professor Séralini's report has highlighted the dangers of GMOs?
3. Does the Commission agree that the EU needs a proper debate on the issue of GMOs, including GM animals, and that such a debate should take place as soon as possible?
4. When is such a debate on the future of GMOs likely to be held?