

**Question for written answer E-010863/2013  
to the Commission  
Rule 117  
Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou (PPE)**

**Subject:** Competitiveness, transparency and future prospects in the European fur industry

According to the European Fur Information Centre,<sup>1</sup> 52% of fur products worldwide are manufactured in Europe (compared with 38% in Russia and Asia), providing 60 000 jobs on 4300 fur farms. Production value has risen dramatically (168.8%) over the period 2009-2012 compared with basic food commodities such as milk, meat and olive oil and fur prices on European markets have tripled, with retail sales in Europe totalling EUR 2.8 bn. At the same time, fur sales are increasing substantially on world markets (from \$13 bn. in 2007 to \$ 15.7 bn. in 2011). According to Eurobarometer's surveys<sup>2</sup>, consumers are unmistakeably showing greater concern for animal welfare standards and seeking more information regarding breeding conditions and are of the opinion that there is still a substantial margin for improvement and for greater cooperation between producers, veterinary services, national authorities and civil society.

In view of this:

1. What is the Commission's opinion regarding the facts set out above?
2. What strategy is it adopting to support and strengthen competitiveness in this sector?
3. Can it say what the prospects are for consolidation and growth in this sector?
4. What is its assessment of compliance by European producers with animal welfare standards and consumer information requirements?

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<sup>1</sup> Fur in Europe: an insight into a much discussed industry.

<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs\\_270\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_270_en.pdf)