

**Question for written answer E-007711/2016**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Arne Gericke (ECR)**

Subject: One-day-old male chicks shredded or gassed to death by the billion

It is estimated that well over 1.5 billion male chicks are killed every year on farms in the EU immediately after they have hatched. Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing regulates killing processes in detail. However, the killing processes involved in shredding and gassing cause excruciating pain.

1. Does the Commission support measures to ban the killing of billions of male chicks on farms?  
Does it not perhaps even deem it necessary from an animal welfare point of view?
2. Does the Commission support and promote the rapid development of processes to determine the sex of embryos in fertilised eggs or other commercially-viable alternatives?
3. Does the EU see any way to enable at least organic farmers and animal rights activists to identify breeders who do not employ such excruciating selection measures?