

**Question for written answer E-001240/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Stefan Eck (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Animal cruelty and the health scandal concerning meat brand El Pozo

Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and other Union legislation recognise that 'animals are sentient beings' and animal welfare standards 'may improve the quality and safety of food of animal origin'.

On 6 February 2018, images of severely deformed pigs and pigs with infected wounds and large abscesses were released from a pig farm in Spain that supplies El Pozo, Spain's biggest fresh and processed meat company, which places those products on the markets of 80 countries worldwide and across Europe.

In view of the recent entry into force of the EU Official Controls Regulation (2017/625), I would like to ask:

1. Is the Commission aware of this case? Is it going to ask for clarifications from the competent Spanish authorities?
2. From the images, one can ascertain that there has been a series of infringements of the provisions of regulation 2017/625 on official controls. Does the Commission consider that those constitute a disruption in a Member State's control system, as laid down in Article 141 of the same regulation?