

**Question for written answer E-003648/2019  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Izaskun Bilbao Barandica** (Renew)

Subject: Measures to offset the real impact of GHG emissions from livestock farming

In recent years the claim that livestock farming is one of the main sources of GHG emissions in the EU has become a mantra. However, COPA and COGECA studies have shown that the industry in fact accounts for only 5% of those emissions. Over the last 15 years, emissions from livestock farming have fallen by 22%. Some 33% of the total agricultural area in the EU is grassland, which can absorb up to 45% of the GHG emissions from livestock. These figures reflect a steady fall in the number of farm animals. Numbers of bovine animals alone have dropped by 25% since 1990 and a further decrease of 8% is forecast by 2030. Although increased yields are offsetting those falls in some sectors (milk), in others (meat) production is moving to other regions which do not comply with EU environmental and animal health and welfare standards.

1. Will the Commission defend livestock farmers against the damaging claims concerning emissions by putting forward arguments which emphasise the economic importance of the sector?
2. Will it include the offsetting capacity of grasslands in its analysis of livestock GHG emissions?
3. Have estimates been drawn up of the costs which relocating some types of production may generate?