

**Question for written answer E-004425/2019  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Roman Haider (ID), Georg Mayer (ID)**

Subject: Animal abuse in the production of buffalo mozzarella

Buffalo mozzarella is in high demand throughout Europe. However, already in 2014, the organisation 'Four Paws' highlighted the conditions in certain farms producing buffalo mozzarella <sup>1</sup>. In this connection, particular attention should be drawn to the gruesome killing of male calves by drowning, food deprivation and other methods. <sup>2</sup> This is far from the case in all farms but it unfortunately brings those who pay attention to the welfare of the animals equally into disrepute. Since these products may be imported freely into other Member States of the European Union, the question arises as to what the Commission intends to do in the light of these circumstances.

1. Does the Commission have any plans to ensure that products such as buffalo mozzarella are not associated with animal abuse?
2. How does the Commission plan to stop the abuse of buffalo calves in these farms?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.vier-pfoten.de/unseregeschichten/presse/november-2018/bueffelmozzarella-vier-pfoten-deckt-erneut-missstaende-in-italiens-farmen-auf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.infosperber.ch/Wirtschaft/Darum-sollten-Sie-beim-Buffel-Mozzarella-genau-hinschauen>