

**Question for written answer E-003952/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Daniel Buda (PPE)

Subject: Farms endangered by law to ban unpleasant odours

A law adopted in June gives mayors the power to order the 'temporary or permanent cessation of activities generating pollution or unpleasant odours and possibly introduce emergency measures or take action in response to breaches of the remedial programme and/or management plan to deal with unpleasant odours as the case may be.' Offending activities may include farming and stockbreeding where the relevant provisions are breached.

The Romanian law in question introduces the concept of 'olfactory discomfort caused by an activity possibly affecting public health and the environment, which is subjectively perceived on a graduated olfactory scale or quantified objectively in line with national, European and international standards currently in force'. Romanian farmers' organisations are calling on the President of Romania not to promulgate this law, arguing that it may seriously undermine the country's embattled livestock sector, farmers already having sustained serious losses in the wake of the African swine fever outbreak, the close-down of the hotel and catering sector, massive meat imports from other Member States and the COVID crisis. In such a situation the law seeking to ban unpleasant odours could well prove to be the irremediable last straw.

What view does the Commission take of the law in question and what course of action are the Romania authorities being advised to follow?