

**Question for written answer E-003646/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Aurélia Beigneux (ID)

Subject: Deliberations about the ban on boiling lobsters alive

An animal welfare bill has been tabled in the United Kingdom. It concerns invertebrates such as lobsters, crab and octopi. It has been established that these animals are sentient beings, capable of feeling pain, a fact that is now better understood by institutions and civil society. In the case of lobsters, animals that are usually scalded alive before being cooked, other methods can be used and specialists recommend stunning or chilling them before they are cooked.

If the bill passes into law, the United Kingdom will join Switzerland, Norway and New Zealand which have all banned boiling of live lobsters.

In 2013, the study by the researcher Bob Elwood, a biologist at Queen's University Belfast, involving experiments on the behaviour of crabs after receiving small electrical shocks, would suggest that crustaceans can feel pain.

1. Has the Commission planned any deliberations on this subject within the European Union?
2. Will the Commission consult the catering and food industry to discover whether other strategies exist that would ensure animal suffering is cut to a minimum?