

Question for written answer E-004849/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
Elena Lizzi (ID)

Subject: REACT-EU funds for companies producing in vitro meat

REACT-EU stands for 'recovery assistance for cohesion and the territories of Europe'. The package was launched in December 2020 with a budget of EUR 50.6 billion to help Member States respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

The Commission has recently decided to grant EUR 2 million in REACT-EU funds to two Dutch companies – Nutreco and Mosa Meat – which produce meat in labs from in vitro cell cultures.

The programme will finance research and development to find the best combination of amino acids, vitamins and minerals to promote the natural growth of muscle cells taken from cows. The aim of this marketing operation is to make meat manufacturing more commercially profitable on European markets, pitching it against local and traditional farming.

In the light of the above:

1. Has the Commission performed a real independent assessment of the ethical and environmental impact of this industry, which is backed by a growing number of multinational companies?
2. How does it intend to protect Europe's livestock rearing system – hit hard by the pandemic – from unfair competition from in vitro meat?
3. Does it not think that REACT-EU funds should go towards supporting traditional farming and thus the jobs at risk in this sector?