

**Question for written answer E-005441/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Ban on the use and import of hormones produced by pregnant mares on blood farms

Equine chorionic gonadotropin (eCG) is a hormone secreted by the placenta of pregnant mares.

It is used in the intensive farming of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs to synchronise ovulation and boost the success of artificial insemination.

The hormone is primarily extracted from mares on farms in the US, Argentina and Uruguay. However, an NGO recently reported that there are also blood farms in Iceland. Around 5 000 mares are reared by some 100 establishments across the country, with 40 litres of blood being produced per pregnant mare and season, equating to roughly 5 litres per week.

The mares, weakened from having their blood drawn and the stress, are beaten with sticks and kept in cramped paddocks causing them to fight. The blood collected is sent in particular to EU laboratories, where it is packaged for intensive farms.

1. Given the conditions in which it is produced, will the Commission ban the use and thus the import of the eCG hormone?
2. Have the intensive farms that use this hormone been identified? Do they receive subsidies through the common agricultural policy?