

**Question for written answer E-001288/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Monitoring calf leather production and developing alternatives

The EU is the world's largest producer of calf leather, which is used in luxury leather goods because it is finer and softer than cowhide.

However, environmental groups are warning about the damage caused by this industry:

some slaughterhouses specialising in calf leather are involved in mistreatment: beating, slaughter without stunning or forcing a hook through the animals' legs and suspending them from it;

processing hides into leather is hugely polluting owing to the chemical products needed to dehair, wash, tan and dye the hides;

lastly, the industry tends to prefer imports from countries that carry out massive deforestation in order to develop intensive breeding. The beef industry is thus accountable for 36% of the deforestation linked to agriculture in the world between 2001 and 2015.

1. As part of the review of animal welfare legislation, will the Commission require cameras to be installed in slaughterhouses to monitor compliance with standards?
2. Will the Commission promote the development of more ethical and environmentally responsible plant-based or laboratory-grown alternatives to leather in general and calf leather in particular?