

**Question for written answer E-001900/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Phasing-out of cages for poultry rearing – time frame, financing, compensation for farmers

There is increasing talk of cages being phased out in the rearing of animals, including poultry, and a Commission proposal to that effect is also expected.

Many farms in Bulgaria have recently been involved in Euro projects, which will make their conversion very difficult, financially speaking.

Bulgarian poultry farmers feel that if that conversion is to work, it should start in 2050 at the earliest.

They also consider that phasing out cages would not solve the problems faced by producers or by consumers. As things stand, cages are designed to satisfy all the needs of the animals and meet animal welfare requirements.

1. Are there plans to phase out cages for poultry rearing in the EU, and if so, when?
2. Are there plans for a mechanism to compensate farmers for phasing out cages and switching to alternative rearing methods?
3. How will this be done and what budget will be allocated for this?