

**Question for written answer E-003569/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

David McAllister (PPE)

Subject: Amendment of the Industrial Emissions Directive and its impact on agriculture in Lower Saxony

On 5 April 2022, the Commission tabled a proposal for a revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive. This proposal will also cover the use of existing and construction of new livestock installations and will have a significant impact on livestock rearing in Lower Saxony. The requirements already in place come with considerable follow-up costs, involve a vast amount of red tape and cause huge delays in the granting of permits. The Commission's current plans provide for a significant extension of the scope for livestock rearing. For example, a threshold of 150 livestock units (LSU) will be introduced for all livestock farms (cattle now also included). This would mean, for example, that dairy farms with 100 cows and the offspring thereof or pig farmers with 500 or more pigs for fattening – i.e. a significant proportion of commercial farms – would be affected by these extensive authorisation procedures and requirements.

1. How will the Commission ensure that the implementation of its proposals does not massively exceed the capacities of livestock farms, pushing small- and medium-sized holdings out of business and accelerating the structural change to industrial installations?
2. What is it doing to ensure that farmers do not suffer for the goals of improving animal welfare and reducing emissions to be achieved?
3. How and to what extent does it include calculable costs and grandfathering in the planned 'best available techniques'?

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