

**Question for written answer E-004070/2022**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Tilly Metz** (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Production of foetal bovine serum in the EU

Foetal bovine serum (FBS) is routinely added to cell culture media in research and testing. FBS is produced from blood collected from bovine foetuses after the uterus has been removed from the slaughtered dam, and foetuses may experience suffering due to the use of invasive collection methods. It is estimated that between 600 000 and 800 000 litres of FBS are produced globally every year, which equates to between 1 and 2 million foetuses, but there is a lack of accurate data on the production of FBS in the EU.

1. Does the Commission know how many bovine foetuses are used for the production of FBS in the EU each year?
2. Does it know how many facilities collect bovine foetal material in the EU, and in which Member States they are located?
3. Can it explain what measures are currently being taken to ensure that foetal suffering is reduced to a minimum, for example by using appropriate killing methods, as mentioned in the 2017 European Food Safety Authority report on animal welfare aspects in respect of the slaughter or killing of pregnant livestock animals?

Submitted: 14.12.2022