

**Question for written answer E-000597/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Sylvia Limmer (ID)

Subject: Insects as 'novel foods' (4)

A study drawn up by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) at the instigation of the Commission on potential biological, chemical and environmental hazards related to insects in food was published on 5 October 2015. It concludes, inter alia, that:

'While the environmental impact of insect farming in terms of resource consumption and emissions depends on the insect species, the use of the substrate as feed and other factors, it appears to be roughly comparable to those of other forms of stockbreeding'.

It cannot therefore be argued that the use of insects as feed and/or food leaves a less harmful ecological or CO₂ footprint.

1. What other findings have emerged from the Commission reading of the EFSA study regarding the sustainability of insects as food?
2. Does insect breeding form part of 'the more sustainable livestock sector' announced by the Commission in the farm to fork strategy? If so, what conclusions have led to this decision and how is it to be implemented, bearing in mind that insects are imported from third countries - while environmental risks are only exported?
3. If not, how does the Commission intend to avoid penalising stockbreeders?

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