

**Question for written answer E-001092/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Sergio Berlato (ECR)

Subject: Commission position on mountain pastures – clarification sought

The Italian provisions implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, particularly in the context of the National Quality System for Animal Welfare, contain two negative points for Italian farms and farmers putting livestock out to pasture in the mountains.

The first point is the requirement that farmers provide loose housing in winter months as shelter for animals, which is impossible for many farmers who graze their herds or flocks at high altitudes. Stall housing is used in the winter months not out of disregard for animal welfare but because it is a long-standing practice with benefits for the animals in question and the alpine environment, and more besides.

The second is the requirement for the presence of housing adjacent to grazing land, which, given pastures' wide expanses, is difficult and inconvenient to apply and pointless because animals find natural shelters on their own during grazing periods and do not need artificial shelters.

In view of the above:

1. Will the Commission reassess the loose housing constraint and consider allowing stall housing?
2. The adjacent housing requirement would hinder many farmers' access to specific premiums. Does the Commission intend to remove that constraint?

Submitted: 30.3.2023