

**Question for written answer E-001189/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Individual housing of calves

In some Member States, it is still permitted to house calves up to 8 weeks of age individually in 'plastic igloos'. As a result, the animals often cannot perform behaviours typical of their age and species. At the end of March, the European Food Safety Authority issued an opinion calling for an end to this rearing practice. This raises a number of questions:

1. Does the Commission support banning the individual housing of calves and, if so, when is such a law to be adopted?
2. All previous animal welfare initiatives have clearly shown that without strict controls, they have very little impact. How does the Commission intend to ensure that any new rules cannot be circumvented?
3. Would such a ban on individual housing only apply to calves or possibly also to other animals?

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