

**Question for written answer E-001613/2023**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Petras Auštrevičius** (Renew)

Subject: Future EU rules on the import and use of equine chorionic gonadotropin

Equine chorionic gonadotropin (eCG) is a hormone extracted from the blood of pregnant mares and used to synchronise oestrus and increase fertility in farmed animals. Investigations by non-governmental organisations have raised serious concerns about the welfare of mares kept in 'blood farms' in Iceland, Uruguay and Argentina, as well as of farmed animals that are administered the hormone throughout the EU.

Alternatives to eCG, which is also known as pregnant mare serum gonadotropin, are already available. This means that it is dispensable and in breach of Directive 2010/63/EU<sup>1</sup> and the principle of the Three Rs (replacement, reduction and refinement) in relation to the use of animals.

1. Does the Commission intend to clarify that the production of eCG is in breach of Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes?
2. Will it propose a ban on imports of eCG from outside the EU, on animal welfare grounds?
3. Can it clarify the timeline for the revision of the guidelines on good manufacturing practice and ascertain whether eCG production can be listed as a prohibited practice in view of the standards that will be included?

Submitted: 22.5.2023

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2010/63/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2010 on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes (OJ L 276, 20.10.2010, p. 33).