

**Question for written answer E-002695/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The continued practice of tail docking in Europe

Today, the vast majority of pigs reared on our continent can be found on intensive livestock farms¹². Faced with boredom, overcrowding and isolation, these animals eventually develop behavioural disorders that cause them to bite each other's tails.

To address this issue, some breeders cut their animals' tails off, and this without any anaesthesia – a practice prohibited by the European Union.

This stress-inducing and seriously painful mutilation triggers changes to the pig's behaviour: a tendency towards isolation, an elevated heartrate, a reduced appetite and an increased level of aggression can all be observed. While tail docking is regulated by the 1991 directive laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs, the Commission has recently pointed to shortcomings in the rearing conditions in the pig farming sector.

In the light of the above:

1. How does the Commission actually intend to enforce this directive?
2. Has it put in place measures to help farmers bring their farms in line with the directive?
3. Can the Commission say whether livestock farmers exporting pig meat into Europe are subject to this directive?

Submitted: 19.9.2023

¹ <https://welfarm.fr/nos-champs-d-action/levage-de-porcs/>

² https://www.lemonde.fr/economie/article/2022/05/27/quand-l-espagne-se-couvre-de-macrofermes-de-porcs_6127857_3234.html