

**Question for written answer E-002825/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Aurélia Beigneux (ID)**

Subject: A call to ban debeaking in Europe

Laying hens are regularly forced to undergo painful mutilations such as debeaking without anaesthesia. This is a painful operation in which the end of the beak is cut off using a blade heated to almost 400°C. It is done to prevent food waste and feather pecking.

As a result of intensive livestock farming on our continent, it is estimated that 80% of laying hens are debeaked, despite a trend towards the practice being banned in many countries. Some Member States have already banned it.

Debeaking is not without consequences; it leads to anatomical, physiological, behavioural and zootechnical alterations, causing a loss of sensory information. Feeding, grooming and nesting are impaired, resulting in reduced egg production.

We have a moral and ethical duty to protect the physical integrity of animals at all stages of their development.

In light of the above:

1. Does the Commission recognise this practice as mutilation and does it intend to ban it?
2. Does the Commission plan to review the rules governing intensive livestock farming?
3. What action does the Commission intend to take to promote human-scale livestock farming that respects animals and their welfare?

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