

**Question for written answer E-003166/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Extending the use of *in-ovo* chick sexing methods to all poultry products sold on the EU market

For reasons of animal welfare, France and Germany have banned the maceration and gassing of male chicks. Male chicks are considered undesirable by the poultry sector because they cannot lay eggs or be used for broiler production if they come from strains which are considered to have a poor growth performance.

However, *in-ovo* sexing methods make it possible to determine the sex of the future chick while it is still in the egg, so as to avoid the hatching and subsequent killing of male chicks. In France alone, this avoids killing 45 million chicks every year.

However, the cost of *in-ovo* sexing must be passed on to consumers, which distorts competition to the detriment of the French and German poultry sectors.

In the context of its revision of Directive 98/58/EC concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes and in order to avoid penalising those who are making an effort to improve animal welfare:

1. Will the Commission extend the ban on killing male chicks to the entire EU market?
2. Will it extend this ban to all poultry products imported into the EU?

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