

**Question for written answer E-000417/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Livestock crisis and in vitro meat: what is the future for our farmers?

In written question E-001061/2023¹, submitted on 29 March 2023, a little known fact is raised: in order to stimulate the growth of in vitro meat cells, manufacturers use foetal bovine serum, for which pregnant cows need to be slaughtered. As long as this serum is used, in vitro meat will still contribute to animal abuse.

This is no way to treat our farmers, who are already suffering from unfair competition from non-EU countries and seeing their income decline year on year.

To protect their farmers and the country's world-renowned gastronomy, on 16 November 2023, the Italian Parliament banned the production and marketing of lab-grown meat in Italy.

1. Will the Commission follow Italy's example by facilitating the adoption of this ban in other Member States?
2. Can it say whether it funds, directly or indirectly, research projects on in vitro meat?
3. Now that it is aware of the animal suffering caused by this industry and the structural and lasting nature of the livestock crisis, does the Commission intend to stop any such funding?

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¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2023-001061_EN.html