

**Question for written answer E-001069/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Ignazio Corrao** (Verts/ALE)

**Subject:** Extraction of gonadotropin from horse blood in Iceland and Argentina and violation of the Animal Protection Directive

Equine gonadotropin, a hormone extracted from pregnant mares in Iceland and Argentina, plays a key role in the million-euro intensive pig farming industry, as explained in a number of press investigations<sup>1</sup>.

Horses go through an incredible amount of suffering having 5 litres of blood extracted per week for 8 weeks, and are then forced to abort by those managing the farms.

The European Commission, through the EFSA, has asked Argentina and Iceland to comply with Directive 2010/63, which provides for the so-called 3R approach, which requires natural gonadotropin to be replaced by a synthetic hormone, of which currently 35 different formulations exist.

In 2023, Iceland decided to revoke the regulation on blood collection, although the Icelandic group ISTEKA, the leader of the European gonadotropin powder market, has said it intends to ignore that decision.

In 2021, the EP called on the Commission to stop the import and domestic production of Pregnant Mare Serum Gonadotropin (PMSG)<sup>2</sup>.

In view of the above:

1. What specific steps has the Commission taken in response to the aforementioned resolution?
2. Will it directly oblige pharmaceutical companies not to purchase natural over synthetic gonadotropin?
3. What further, tougher measures will it take to ban the sale and production of the hormone PMSG, derived from cruel practices?

Submitted:10.4.2024

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<sup>1</sup> Sabrina Giannini, 'Il cavallo di Troia', Rai 3 (2024) and Animal Welfare Foundation (2018).

<sup>2</sup> Paragraph 130 of the European Parliament resolution of 20 October 2021 on a farm to fork strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system (2020/2260(INI)).