

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1721/09
by Carl Schlyter (Verts/ALE)
to the Commission

Subject: Plucking of live geese

A recent report broadcast by Swedish TV4 during its *Kalla Fakta* programme highlighted the fact that goose feathers and down produced in Hungary are obtained through the plucking of live birds. In accordance with the Recommendation concerning domestic geese adopted under the European Convention for the protection of animals kept for farming purposes (ETS 87), plucking of live geese has been prohibited since December 1999. Article 23 states that 'Feathers, including down, shall not be plucked from live birds'. The Convention has been ratified by Hungary and its requirements should thus be fully respected, as also promised at the time of Hungary's accession to the EU.

Given that the EU is a party to the Council of Europe Convention, can the Commission explain what action it intends to take to ensure that Hungary respects the requirements of the Recommendation on geese?

What measures is the Commission planning to take at EU level to ensure that live plucking of geese does not take place in the EU?