

**Question for written answer P-005159/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Julie Girling (ECR)

Subject: Welfare of horses intended for slaughter

I have been contacted by a constituent concerned about the welfare of foals and young horses. Their specific question relates to equidae intended for slaughter and the practice of the permanent hobbling of their front legs in order to restrict movement for weight gain and ensure protection from bruising with the aim of protecting the quality of the meat.

- Is the Commission aware of this practice?
- Can it comment on the current steps being taken to improve the implementation of existing rules?
- Can it comment on what future action it intends to take to ensure the welfare of animals destined for slaughter?