

Question for written answer E-003066/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Pascal Arimont (PPE)

Subject: Animal welfare during the stunning of pigs in slaughterhouses

Annex I of Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 of 24 September 2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing includes stunning methods for the slaughter of pigs that involve carbon dioxide at high concentration. However, high concentrations of CO₂ cause pigs to suffer from respiratory distress and hyperventilation before they lose consciousness, which is associated with a high level of stress for the animals. The reason given by the Commission for maintaining this practice is that there is no commercially viable alternative¹. In the ‘PigStun’ project, the EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare (EURCAW-Pigs) has now investigated various alternatives to high CO₂ concentration stunning of pigs².

1. What conclusions has the Commission drawn from the findings of the project?
2. Is the Commission prepared to implement the recommendations?

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¹ https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-welfare/eu-animal-welfare-legislation/slaughter-stunning_en

² <https://eurcaw-pigs.eu/dossier/pigstun>