

Question for written answer E-004662/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Cumulative impact of animal welfare legislation on the competitiveness and long-term future of European farmers

Alongside the adopted proposal for a regulation on the protection of animals during transport and related operations, the Commission is drawing up legislative proposals on the phasing-out of cage farming and on the welfare of farm animals. Further proposals on EU-wide animal welfare labelling and the welfare of animals at slaughter are also in the pipeline.

All these initiatives will have a cumulative impact on production costs and infrastructure, investment requirements, red tape and the competitiveness of European farmers and the agri-food supply chain, especially in relation to production in third countries. At the same time, European farmers are already facing challenges such as rising input costs, volatile markets and strict EU environmental and climate requirements.

What will the cumulative economic impact of the package of animal welfare initiatives as a whole be, specifically on:

1. the competitiveness of EU livestock farmers and processors, particularly when compared to operators in third countries;
2. farmers' incomes, generational renewal and the long-term economic future of European farmers; and
3. the risk of production relocating to outside the EU and it being replaced with imports produced under much lower welfare standards?

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