Question for oral answer O-000006/2026
to the Commission
Rule 142
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Subject: When and how will the Commission deliver on its commitment to revise the EU's animal welfare legislation?

The Commission has repeatedly committed to revising the EU's animal welfare legislation and promised to present a legislative proposal by 2026. However, this commitment was not reflected in the Commission's 2026 work programme, raising concerns about the timing, scope and ambition of the reform. A well-structured process is essential to modernise outdated rules, align EU policy with the latest scientific evidence and meet the expectations of EU citizens and Parliament, as expressed through the European Citizens' Initiative 'End the cage age' and Parliament's 2021 resolution thereon[1].

While the Commission's relaunch of the call for evidence and public consultations is welcome, uncertainty remains regarding the scope, timing and ambition of the forthcoming proposals. Given Parliament's support for comprehensive reform, any further delay, or adoption of partial measures or a fragmented approach, risk undermining public confidence in the EU's commitment to improving animal welfare.

Citizens and stakeholders expect a legislative package that is coherent, ambitious and inclusive of all farmed animal species. The new proposals should support ethical trade practices, ensure fair competition for EU farmers complying with higher welfare standards, and reinforce the EU's global leadership in animal welfare. Timely legislation would reaffirm the EU's position internationally, demonstrate its commitment to ethical, science-based policymaking, and strengthen its credibility in promoting sustainable and responsible farming practices.

A clear roadmap from the Commission would be a decisive step towards restoring confidence and delivering on long-standing promises to citizens, farmers and animal welfare organisations.

In this context, Parliament calls on the Commission to clarify the following:

1. Will the Commission submit its promised legislative proposal on animal welfare in the fourth quarter of 2026?

[1] European Parliament resolution of 10 June 2021 on the European Citizens' Initiative 'End the cage age' (OJ C 67, 8.2.2022, p. 131).

2. Will the proposal include robust import requirements to prevent products produced under lower welfare standards from entering the EU market, thus ensuring fair competition for EU farmers?

3. How does the Commission intend to ensure that the planned sector-by-sector approach achieves a comprehensive and harmonised reform across all farmed animals, avoiding gaps that could compromise the integrity of the legislation?

Submitted: 5.2.2026
Lapses: 6.5.2026