

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002112/25
to the Commission
Christine Schneider (PPE), Lena Düpont (PPE)
(27 May 2025)**

Subject: Waste products as a source of feed in insect farming

The cost of rearing black soldier fly larvae is currently largely determined by the cost of feed grain. As it stands, waste products cannot be used in feed for insect farming — only high-quality feed grain is permitted. This significantly weakens the financial competitiveness of insect protein. Historically, the EU's strict requirements on feed law can be explained by the BSE crisis. Recently, rules have been relaxed in relation to the use of offal-derived animal protein in feed. However, the insect farming sector has not yet benefited from such a relaxation of rules, even if it only supplies the pet food value chain.

1. To what extent is a relaxation of restrictions in the area of insect farming planned, and under what conditions are these conceivable?
2. Is it currently possible to use waste products in feed under certain conditions — such as on the pet food market or as part of pilot and demonstration projects, etc. — and which waste products would be conceivable in this sense?

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**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(4 September 2025)**

1. With reference to Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 ⁽¹⁾, Annex X, Chapter II, Section 10, *Black soldier fly* may be fed with several animal by-products and derived products. The Commission is aware that the International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed (IPIFF) is developing new technological processes to 'clean' insects after having been fed with meat and fish, and to develop and validate analytical method to detect specific proteins from meat and fish in insect protein. In the future, this may enable the authorisation of a wider range of material of animal origin for insects feeding.
2. There are no EU rules that would allow the use of waste in feed, including petfood, as waste, as defined in Directive 2008/98/EC means a material that must be or is intended to be discarded ⁽²⁾.

As regards, animal by-products, Article 17 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 ⁽³⁾ provides for rules on research projects concerning the use of animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption, such as pilot and demonstration projects. The authorisation of research projects is the responsibility of Member States' competent authorities.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 of 25 February 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down health rules as regards animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption and implementing Council Directive 97/78/EC as regards certain samples and items exempt from veterinary checks at the border under that directive (OJ L 54, 26.2.2011, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2011/142/2024-07-11>).

⁽²⁾ Article 3 of Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2008/98/2024-02-18>.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 laying down health rules as regards animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 (Animal by-products Regulation) (OJ L 300, 14/11/2009, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/1069/oj>).