

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002168/25
to the Commission
Lena Düpont (PPE)
(29 May 2025)**

Subject: Use of slurry solids as bedding in dairy stalls

A fundamental objective of our EU agriculture is to become more sustainable and also more efficient. Our farmers work innovatively and in line with the latest standards. One of these methods is slurry separation. By separating slurry, nutrients can be deployed even more precisely and efficiently, while the solids can also be used in a variety of sustainable ways. One possible use of solids is as bedding in dairy stalls. However, Regulations (EC) No 1069/2009 and (EU) No 142/2011 do not, as of yet, explicitly provide for the use of slurry or slurry products, such as slurry solids, as bedding in dairy stalls.

1. Do the above-mentioned regulations provide for the possibility of applying for a derogation for the use of slurry and slurry products such as slurry solids as bedding in dairy stalls?
2. Is the Commission aware of Member States where slurry and slurry products, such as slurry solids, are used as bedding in dairy stalls?
3. Does the Commission intend to amend the above-mentioned regulations in order to allow, in principle and explicitly, the use of slurry and slurry products, such as slurry solids, as bedding in dairy stalls?

Submitted: 29.5.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(22 July 2025)**

1. Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 ⁽¹⁾ and Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 ⁽²⁾ do not refer to ‘slurry and slurry products’ or to ‘slurry solids’ while ‘manure’ is defined in Article 3.20 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 and subsequently regulated by Article 13 of that regulation. The objective of these Regulations is prevention of public and animal health risk posed by animal by-products, such as by manure. For that reason, the former Regulation does not provide for the use of manure as bedding in establishments keeping animals, among them dairy cows. However, these Regulations provide for proportionate and science-based rules on safe processing and disposal and valorisation methods for manure, including rules to apply it on land. In combination with Regulation (EU) 2023/1605 ⁽³⁾ these rules have established a safe and sustainable manufacturing chain towards EU fertilising products after several risk mitigation measures render manure safe. In that context, manure has already been considered a valuable starting material and resource, supporting sustainability and circularity in the farming sector.
2. The Commission is not aware of such Member States where slurry and slurry products, such as slurry solids, are used as bedding in dairy stalls.
3. The Commission does not intend to amend the above-mentioned Regulations for the mentioned purpose.

⁽¹⁾ 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. 1-33.

⁽²⁾ 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. 1-254.

⁽³⁾ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/1605 of 22 May 2023 supplementing Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the determination of end points in the manufacturing chain of certain organic fertilisers and soil improvers (OJ L 198, 8.8.2023, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2023/1605/oj).