

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002610/25
to the Commission
Niels Fuglsang (S&D)
(27 June 2025)

Subject: Future common agricultural policy and bullfighting

1. Does the Commission agree that for both food safety and animal welfare reasons, it is undesirable to process meat for human consumption from bulls killed in bullfights, and can it indicate whether it is possible that such meat is circulating on the EU market without a label informing consumers of its source?
2. Can the Commission confirm that around EUR 200 million is allocated each year, through the common agricultural policy (CAP), to the breeders of bulls intended for bullfighting, indicate whether it is willing to change this in the future CAP, and state whether it is willing to open a dialogue and/or make a proposal regarding the welfare of animals used for culture and tradition?
3. Can the Commission give its opinion on bullfighting in relation to animal welfare, explain its interpretation of Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which relates to animal welfare measures, in the context of culture and tradition, and indicate whether it agrees that animal welfare should be safeguarded in this context, as was decided recently in Mexico City ⁽¹⁾?

Submitted: 27.6.2025

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

Food safety rules are intended to avoid exposure of humans to possible health risks transmitted through food. The placing on the market for human consumption of meat from bulls killed in a bullfight is subject to EU and national food safety legislation.

No Common Agricultural Policy aid is designed at EU level to specifically support the economic viability of the breeding of bulls for fighting. The farmers may however benefit from interventions that pursue objectives unrelated to this activity (e.g. basic income support per hectare of eligible agricultural land, including permanent grassland or schemes for the climate or the environment). The Commission has no information about the overall amount of such indirect supports.

Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ⁽¹⁾ states that, in formulating policies and legislation in a number of policy areas, the Union and the Member States shall pay full regard to the welfare of animals, while respecting the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of the Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage.

Bearing in mind that bullfighting as such is under the sole competence of the Member States concerned, the Commission remains open to discuss this question with the European Parliament and the Council.

¹ <https://www.animanaturalis.org/n/46833/bull-death-prohibited-in-mexico-city-first-step-toward-ending-bullfighting>.
(¹) <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:12012E/TXT&from=EN>.