

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000164/26
to the Commission
Sirpa Pietikäinen (PPE)
(15 January 2026)**

Subject: Transparency on Commission workshops linked to the ‘Fur Free Europe’ European Citizens’ Initiative

The Commission will present its response to the European Citizens’ Initiative ‘Fur Free Europe’ by March 2026. The Commission outlined three scenarios: (1) an EU-wide prohibition on fur farming; (2) an EU-wide prohibition on fur farming and on the placing on the market of farmed fur products; (3) the adoption of standards to better address the welfare needs of these affected animals ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission has referred to species-specific workshops held in September 2025 with the fur industry to inform the development of ‘technical specifications’ for regulatory options ⁽²⁾.

In this context:

1. In the interest of transparency, will the Commission clarify the exact purpose of these workshops and ensure that related documentation, such as minutes, is made publicly available?
2. Can the Commission confirm whether other stakeholders, such as non-governmental organisations, were consulted only through a questionnaire and online interview?
3. Can the Commission confirm whether these workshops focused exclusively on developing technical specifications for the ‘standards’ scenario, rather than the ‘ban’ scenarios (1 and 2)? If so, and given the precarious economic state of the industry ⁽³⁾, why did the Commission prioritise work on ‘standards’ and not convene equivalent work on scenarios 1 and 2, including transitional or phase-out options?

Submitted: 15.1.2026

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(16 March 2026)**

In preparation of the communication planned to be published in March 2026, to ensure a robust evidence base, several consultation activities were carried out, including a call for evidence, targeted Member States and stakeholders’ surveys and interviews as part of an external study.

These consultations covered all scenarios and will allow integrating into the Commission’s assessment the views and data from all stakeholders (fur farmers, manufacturers, traders and retailers, animal welfare, non-governmental organisations, fashion and textile companies, consumers and the general public, national authorities, scientific and veterinary experts, and relevant non-EU countries, etc.).

The reason why the workshops, which were organised at the launch of the external study, involved only academia and fur farmers and focused on the regulatory scenario was to develop the technical specifications for that scenario, in order to make it more specific and provide the necessary basis for further consultations and analysis. The ban scenarios were from the start sufficiently clear to be assessed. None of the scenarios has been prioritised in the assessment.

The relevant outcome of the consultation process which includes the results of the above- mentioned workshops, will become publicly available once the study is published.

¹ European Commission, Communication from the Commission on the European Citizens’ Initiative (ECI) ‘Fur Free Europe’ C(2023) 8362 final, Brussels, 7 December 2023, https://citizens-initiative.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-12/C_2023_8362_EN.pdf.

² European Food Safety Authority, Webinar on welfare of animals kept for fur production, 29 September 2025, <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/webinar-welfare-animals-kept-fur-production>.

³ Carpenter G, Measuring the economic size of the EU fur industry, 2025. Carpenter (2025) — A full-cost account of the EU fur industry.