

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001236/26
to the Commission
Danuše Nerudová (PPE)
(25 March 2026)**

Subject: 'Fur Free Europe'

The European citizens' initiative 'Fur Free Europe' gathered over 1.5 million signatures in support of its call for an EU-wide ban on fur farming and on the placing of farmed fur products on the internal market.

According to recent reports, the Commission is considering rejecting calls for such a ban and instead pursuing stricter animal welfare standards for fur farming. This approach appears to diverge from scientific evidence, notably the findings of the European Food Safety Authority, which concluded that current cage-based systems for fur farming cause significant welfare problems that cannot be mitigated without fundamental changes to the system.

At the same time, the sector has already significantly declined within the EU, with only five countries having no plans to phase out fur farming.

In the light of this:

1. How does the Commission assess the compatibility of its approach with the objective of ensuring a level playing field in the internal market, in view of the increasing divergence of national legislation banning fur farming?
2. How does the Commission justify its preliminary conclusion that improved welfare standards would be sufficient, given the scientific evidence indicating that the welfare needs of animals farmed for fur cannot be met within existing farming systems?

Submitted: 25.3.2026

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(26 May 2026)**

The Commission is preparing the communication replying to the European Citizen's Initiative 'Fur Free Europe' ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission takes note of the concerns expressed by the Honourable Member and appreciates the contribution provided concerning the welfare of animals farmed for fur to which it will give full consideration.

⁽¹⁾ https://citizens-initiative.europa.eu/fur-free-europe_en.