

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001966/26
to the Commission**

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(12 May 2026)

Subject: Stakeholder involvement and evidence-based decision-making regarding the Fur Free Europe citizens' initiative

The European citizens' initiative Fur Free Europe ⁽¹⁾ calls for a prohibition on fur farming and the placing of fur products on the EU market. The Commission indicated that, taking into account the scientific opinion of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and its own assessment, it would communicate by March 2026 whether it intends to propose such a prohibition or alternative measures.

The Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare has also refused to meet the organisers of the citizens' initiative Fur Free Europe ⁽²⁾, although he has met with the fur farming industry. It has also come to our attention that the content of the upcoming communication is maintaining fur farming under revised welfare standards, which contradicts the core objectives of the initiative as well as EFSA scientific opinion ⁽³⁾, which calls for a ban on fur farming.

Therefore we ask the Commission:

1. When does it intend to publish its communication on the Fur Free Europe initiative?
2. How is it ensuring balanced stakeholder involvement and evidence-based decision-making without meeting the organisers of the initiative?
3. How is it ensuring that its response respects the democratic expression of EU citizens and aligns with the scientific evidence?

Submitted: 12.5.2026

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission

(9 July 2026)

The Commission is preparing the follow-up Communication replying to the European Citizen's Initiative 'Fur Free Europe' ⁽¹⁾. The process is ongoing, and it is the Commission's intention to finalise soon the text of the communication.

During the preparation of the Commission Communication, several consultation activities were carried out with both industry and other stakeholders such as civil society organisations, academia, fashion brands, auction houses and others, to ensure robust evidence for the decision and broad stakeholder involvement in the process leading up to that. Member States' competent authorities have also been consulted.

The scientific opinion of the European Food Safety Authority, the views and data collected from all stakeholders, and the analysis conducted as part of an external study commissioned to support the Commission's assessment, all integrate the base for the upcoming Commission Communication.

¹ https://citizens-initiative.europa.eu/initiatives/details/2022/000002_en.

² <https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/news-document/en/221219>.

³ <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2025.9519>.

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