

**Question for written answer E-014419/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Marina Albiol Guzmán (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Cruelty to livestock on cattle ranches

Article 13 of Title II of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union requires the EU and the Member States to pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals, while respecting the customs and specificities of the various Member States.

Evidence has come to light¹ of practices that are clear cases of animal torture, such as ear-nicking, the 'testing' of cows and some steers involving stabbing by a mounted picador, and five-mark branding on ranches rearing bulls and steers destined to die in bullfights or at closed-door events used for bullfighter training or even for the private entertainment of bullfighting aficionados. There is also evidence of cruelty during animal transportation and the poor condition of many of the cows that have been tested, rejected for breeding and sent to the slaughterhouse.

1. Given that these ranches breed animals for bullfights but that some of them end up being killed in a slaughterhouse or on the ranch itself, does the cultural exception clause apply only at the time of the bullfights or does it also apply to the treatment of animals on the ranch and irrespective of their ultimate fate?
2. In the latter case, will the Commission force ranches to differentiate in their treatment of animals depending on the destination chosen for them?
3. In the former case, what measures will the Commission take to call a halt to this violation of animal rights and of the TFEU?

¹

<http://s987.photobucket.com/user/sergiogarciatorres/slideshow/Imagenes%20Toros%20Sufrimiento%20Ganaderias%20Lidia>