

**Question for written answer E-015592/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Mass livestock farming: a breeding ground for multi-drug-resistant microbes

Mass livestock farming: a breeding ground for multi-drug-resistant microbes – as a result of it, antibiotic resistance is rapidly increasing in both human beings and animals.

If large numbers of animals are kept in close proximity to one another, this is a major cause of 'hospital-associated' agents of infection. The culprit is the large doses of antibiotics administered and the use of reserve antibiotics, without which mass livestock farming would not work, because of the high rate of infection. Resistant microbes find their way into meat. Moreover, through manure, dangerous resistant bacteria are spread on fields, thus being passed on to fruit and vegetables, as well as entering groundwater. The microbes are also communicated to people working in mass livestock farming, and, through contact with them, to other people as well. This means that resistant microbes from mass livestock farming are spreading to more and more people by a variety of routes.

Is the Commission aware that mass animal stalls are a very significant breeding ground for multi-drug-resistant microbes and should therefore be abolished, because as a matter of principle they can only function in conjunction with the massive use of antibiotics?

What will the Commission do to call a halt to multi-drug-resistant microbes from mass livestock farming, which is increasingly rapidly rendering our antibiotics ineffective, with fatal consequences for human beings and animals?