

**Question for written answer E-014448/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Nicola Caputo (S&D)

Subject: Foie gras: abolishing the minimum weight requirement for duck and goose livers

In his answer to written question E-012154/2015, Commissioner Andriukaitis stated that 'the Commission is aware of alternative methods for the production of foie gras which remain a minor practice in the EU', but pointed out that 'not all the products from the alternative methods can be considered as foie gras according to the marketing standards for poultry meat laid down in Commission Regulation (EC) No 543/2008'.

The reason for this is that the minimum liver weights stipulated in Regulation (EC) No 543/2008 are almost impossible to achieve without force feeding.

The minimum weights for duck and goose livers established in 2008 in Regulation (EC) No 543/2008 are therefore clearly an arbitrary barrier – and possible the principal barrier – to enhancing animal welfare during the foie gras production process, the most controversial feature of which is force feeding.

Accordingly, would the Commission not agree that it should propose that Regulation (EC) No 543/2008 should be amended in order to remove the minimum weight requirement for duck and goose livers (which were laid down in 2008 and therefore cannot be claimed to be 'traditional'), so that foie gras produced without force feeding may be sold as genuine foie gras?