

**Question for written answer E-014534/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Siôn Simon (S&D)**

Subject: Battery cages

In 1999, Council Directive 1999/74/EC sought to effectively ban the practice of using battery cages to produce eggs, by introducing minimum standards for keeping egg laying hens. After a 13-year phase-out period, the Directive has allowed millions of hens to experience slightly better standards of living. However, the Directive does not apply to establishments that are breeding egg laying hens or those that have fewer than 350 hens. Furthermore, poor practices remain as regards cages, with insufficient space for these hens.

Can the Commission detail how successful this Directive has been, and will it consider further increasing standards for these creatures?