

Question for written answer E-015352/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Julie Girling (ECR)

Subject: Consequences of raising minimum liver weight in 2008

In 2008, the minimum weight of duck and goose livers needed to define a product as foie gras was increased by means of Commission Regulation (EC) No 543/2008. Among other things, this had an impact on some producers, who now have to use other denominations for their products made of fattened livers under such minimum weights. The establishment of higher minimum liver weights placed implicit pressure on producers to increase the use of gavage.

There has not been any traditional minimum weight for livers in foie gras production over the centuries, therefore:

- Has the Commission conducted an impact assessment on the consequences for producers of the decision taken in 2008 to increase the minimum liver weights for foie gras production, in terms of both business revenue and changes in production patterns?
- Does the Commission agree that EU legislation should move in the direction of higher – rather than lower – animal welfare standards in foie gras production?
- Will the Commission bring forward a review of the minimum liver weights established in 2008, in order to permit producers who do not use gavage to trade their products as foie gras?