

**Question for written answer E-003361/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Rosa D'Amato** (Verts/ALE), **Piernicola Pedicini** (Verts/ALE), **Michèle Rivasi** (Verts/ALE), **Caroline Roose** (Verts/ALE), **Damien Carême** (Verts/ALE), **Mounir Satouri** (Verts/ALE), **Pär Holmgren** (Verts/ALE), **Alice Kuhnke** (Verts/ALE), **Jakop G. Dalunde** (Verts/ALE), **Ignazio Corrao** (Verts/ALE), **Heidi Hautala** (Verts/ALE), **Sylwia Spurek** (Verts/ALE), **Manuela Ripa** (Verts/ALE), **Tilly Metz** (Verts/ALE), **Malte Gallée** (Verts/ALE), **Anna Deparnay-Grunenberg** (Verts/ALE), **Francisco Guerreiro** (Verts/ALE), **Anja Hazekamp** (The Left), **Clare Daly** (The Left)

Subject: Fish slaughter – stunning before slaughter

The Commission's inception impact assessment of the ongoing revision of the EU legislation on animal welfare suggests introducing species-specific provisions for farmed fish at the time of killing.

Recent investigations into European aquaculture<sup>12</sup> reveal the use of slaughter methods which have long been identified as unacceptable for fish welfare by the European Food Safety Authority<sup>3</sup> and the World Organisation for Animal Health<sup>4</sup>. The investigations also demonstrate the suffering associated with time out of water and with handling practices around slaughter.

As well as introducing requirements to effectively stun fish where species-specific parameters are known, will the Commission propose that:

1. Best handling practices be required at slaughter for all finfish species in aquaculture?
2. The worst slaughter techniques (e.g. asphyxiation in air or ice, salt baths and gas saturated water) be banned for all finfish species in aquaculture?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.eldiario.es/castilla-la-mancha/provincias/albacete/sacrificio-hielo-agonia-hora-media-desove-forzoso-sufrimiento-innecesario-piscifactorias\\_1\\_9148997.html](https://www.eldiario.es/castilla-la-mancha/provincias/albacete/sacrificio-hielo-agonia-hora-media-desove-forzoso-sufrimiento-innecesario-piscifactorias_1_9148997.html)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.essereanimali.org/en/fishtoo/>

<sup>3</sup> EFSA, 2009, Species-specific welfare aspects of the main systems of stunning and killing of farmed Seabass and Seabream.

<sup>4</sup> WOA, 2022, Aquatic Animal Health Code.