

**Question for written answer E-006222/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Janusz Wojciechowski (ECR)

Subject: Compatibility of laws banning the slaughter of animals without prior stunning with the European Convention on Human Rights and laws governing religious freedom

When the Commission was drafting Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009 of 24 September 2009, did it consider whether Articles 26 (2) (c) and Article 4 (4) of that regulation, which taken together open the way for Member States to impose a complete ban on ritual killings or the killing of animals without prior stunning, were compatible with the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights, in particular those which grant religious communities the right to carry out certain practices in keeping with their beliefs?

Does the Commission not think that allowing Member States to impose a complete ban on the slaughter of animals without prior stunning (an option proposed by several Member States, including Poland) is in violation of the religious freedoms enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights?