

**Question for written answer E-002790/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)**

Subject: Mandatory country of origin labelling for meat in processed food

On 11 February 2015, Parliament adopted a resolution calling on the Commission to draw up a legislative proposal bringing in mandatory country of origin labelling for meat in processed food. This is in spite of the fact that, in December 2013, a Commission report stated that the introduction of such a requirement would entail a significant increase in production costs for businesses.

It is my belief that the fact that a very small minority of producers have broken the law and breached internal market competition rules in the past should not mean that, as a result, conditions are introduced which also affect the vast majority of honest businesses. The first step should be to look into how to ensure compliance with existing legislation.

Additional regulation will not bring down the level of dishonesty: it will only serve to increase the bureaucratic and financial burden of running a business. This has an impact not only on SMEs but also on ordinary consumers. The increased production and service costs incurred will be passed on through higher purchase prices.

In the light of Parliament's resolution, is the Commission planning to draft a legislative proposal to introduce across-the-board mandatory country of origin labelling for meat in processed food? Or will it recommend, as it has done thus far, two other, less costly solutions:

1. voluntary labelling, and
2. marking that specifies only whether the product originates in or outside the EU?