

**Question for written answer E-011891/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Frédérique Ries (ALDE), Sirpa Pietikäinen (PPE), Virginie Rozière (S&D), Michèle Rivasi (Verts/ALE), Anja Hazekamp (GUE/NGL), Bart Staes (Verts/ALE) and Robert Rochefort (ALDE)

Subject: Food safety concerns regarding Canadian horsemeat imports

In December 2014, the Commission prohibited the import of horsemeat produced in Mexico owing to serious shortcomings in the capacity of the Mexican authorities to carry out reliable checks and in particular to attest to the absence of substances prohibited by Council Directive 96/22/EC.

Similar traceability problems have recently been identified by the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) in Canada. The latest audit notes serious concerns in relation to the reliability of the controls of both imported and domestic horses destined for export to the EU.

Given that this FVO audit concludes that it cannot be ensured that horses slaughtered in Canada for export to the EU have not been treated with substances such as hormonal growth promotants, which are not permitted in the EU, how does the Commission intend to prevent the placing on the EU market of Canadian horsemeat imports that do not comply with EU food safety requirements?