

**Question for written answer E-015308/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Joëlle Bergeron (EFDD)**

Subject: Compulsory anaesthetisation of ritually slaughtered animals

On Thursday, 26 November 2015 Parliament adopted a joint resolution on a new animal welfare strategy for 2016-2020, as animal welfare is one of the shared values that must be upheld by the Member States and by any civilised country.

However, on account of the suffering that is caused to animals by the ritual slaughter practices required by certain religions, it is clear that animal welfare is of little concern to some groups.

Some Member States have already introduced laws under which animals that are to be subjected to religious sacrifice must be anaesthetised before ritual slaughter takes place.

Does the Commission intend, in the immediate or not-too-distant future, to submit a proposal for a directive making it compulsory in all Member States for animals subjected to ritual slaughter to be anaesthetised beforehand?