

**Question for written answer E-000826/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Hannu Takkula (ALDE)**

Subject: Keeping the right to direct sales of fresh and dried reindeer meat in Finland in the revision of the EU food controls regulation

Finland has a national exemption from Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 concerning reindeer owners' right to sell fresh and dried reindeer meat direct to the consumer without a meat inspection in the reindeer preserve. A revision of this regulation is currently being prepared.

The direct sale of reindeer meat is of vital economic importance to the local population in the remote and thinly populated reindeer preserves, owing to the distances involved in reindeer herding. In other words transporting the reindeer individually to a slaughterhouse would make reindeer herding economically unviable. Meat inspections would have a significant negative impact on the local market in reindeer meat. The direct sale of reindeer meat has never caused any harm to public health.

The national exemption for Finland is missing from the Commission proposal for a revision of the food controls regulation. As a substitute member of the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture, I should like to ask: How does the Commission propose to ensure, in its revision of the EU's food controls regulation, that the direct sale of fresh and dried reindeer meat can continue in thinly-populated areas of Finland?