

Question for written answer E-002852/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)

Subject: Ban on sale of traditional Polish product named 'Golonka Peklowana' (corned hock)

In Poland recently, shocking public statements have been made and information has appeared that harms the EU's image concerning the need to withdraw a product named 'Golonka Peklowana' from the market. This product is much appreciated on the Polish consumer and catering markets, and many different and beloved regional and local variants have been preserved over the centuries.

The reason for introducing the ban on the sale of this product is supposedly the fact that the corning procedure, which is the essence of the product, involves the use of spices and ingredients that contain small amounts of nitrites and nitrates.

People are right to be shocked by this situation, since 'Golonka Peklowana' is a Polish product with many centuries of tradition and is thus greatly prized. If a ban is introduced on the sale of this product, both Polish consumers and businesses – butchers, meat processors, traders and caterers – will suffer. The country's traditions would also suffer.

At this point, it is worth pointing out that many traditional products from other Member States have somehow found themselves on a list of products covered by an exemption due to the fact that those products could not fulfil EU production requirements.

In this connection, could the Commission say whether it would be possible to change the current legal status and include traditional Polish 'Golonka Peklowana' on the list of products covered by a derogation?