

Question for written answer E-004639/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Alberto Cirio (PPE)

Subject: Reciprocity in trade relations with China

Because of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (English acronym: BSE), better known as 'mad cow disease', many countries have adopted measures to avoid the presence in animal feed of meat and animal protein. China, despite having given Italy the status of a 'negligible risk' country, is continuing to delay the lifting of feed import bans. Conversely, the European Union permits imports even from Chinese factories in which the so-called splitting of cowhide is practised, through which hide discarded during tanning is put into the animal food cycle, together with high doses of glycerol and/or glycerine and other substances used to reduce free water, not to mention heavy metals and inorganic chemicals. Obviously, this process is not allowed in Europe, but we allow products that involve its use to enter the EU.

Can the Commission clarify the following:

1. Is it aware of the application of this process, and hence of the possible presence of animal remains in feed imported from China?
2. What measures are being taken to ensure there is reciprocity in trade between China and the Member States?