

Question for written answer E-009365/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)

Subject: Adverse impact of the regulation on the provision of food information to consumers

I have been informed by consumers in Poland and elsewhere in Europe of a drastic reduction in the number of shops offering offcuts of cured meats free of charge or at a low cost. These perfectly good offcuts are mainly of interest to the poor, the unemployed, the elderly and pensioners, who often cannot afford to buy meat products.

This situation has come about as a result of Regulation No 1169/2011 of 25 October 2011 on the provision of food information to consumers, which requires food to be accurately labelled: customers must be given information about the production, ingredients and batch number of each product and its use-by date. Of course, in the case of offcuts of cured meats, which in the shops are usually mixed together, this is not possible and so they cannot be sold.

Not only does this limit the opportunity for less well-off customers to purchase meat products, it also creates substantial food waste. This is completely at odds with the notion of a circular economy advocated by the EU, which requires the added value in products to be retained for as long as possible and the elimination of waste.

Is the Commission planning to take action to adapt the existing Regulation to the needs of consumers, also bearing in mind the need to address the problem of food waste?