

**Question for written answer E-002865/2018**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Breaches by Member States of their obligations under Regulation 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing

Bearing in mind that:

- The ECJ has repeatedly condemned EU Member States for systematic breaches of the rules laid down in Directives 91/628/EEC and 93/119/ EC and Regulations 1/2005 and 1099/2009 on the protection of animals during transport and at the time of slaughter or killing.
- Some Member States, including Greece, are attempting, in violation of EU legislation, in particular Regulation 1099/2009, to 'legalise' a most barbaric practice of killing animals in the context of religious events and religious practices which requires them to be killed in a crude and painful way which is tantamount to torture; in so doing, these Member States are deliberately ignoring their obligations to ensure broad protection for animals at the time of killing, i.e. they must be stunned first and bled in a scientific manner in specially developed sites falling within the scope of Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004.
- This practice is a direct violation of moral standards and European cultural values and a brutal violation of the rule of law, the *acquis communautaire*, the principle of the equality of citizens and respect for individual rights.

Will the Commission say:

- Does this practice violate Article 3 (1) and Annex I of Regulation 1099/2009, which explicitly state that: 'Animals shall be spared any avoidable pain, distress or suffering during their killing and related operations' and that they shall be killed 'after stunning' using appropriate scientific methods and practices?