



31.10.2017

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

**Subject: Petition No 0271/2017 by Benjamin Rzepka (German) on video surveillance in slaughterhouses**

### 1. Summary of petition

The petitioner is calling upon the European Parliament to propose EU-wide legislation and regulation of slaughterhouse practices and in particular mandating video surveillance. The petitioner provides German media material in the form of video content and articles documenting illicit practices in certain French slaughterhouses, where animals were inter alia slaughtered without anaesthetics or had their limbs removed while still alive. The petitioner is of the view that such practices, if present in France, are likely to be common across the EU.

### 2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 14 July 2017. Information requested from Commission under Rule 216(6).

### 3. Commission reply, received on 31 October 2017

The Commission would like to point out that the European Union adopted in 2009 an extensive piece of legislation to protect animals in slaughterhouses<sup>1</sup>. This legislation entered into application on 1 January 2013.

It is primarily the responsibility of the Member States competent authorities to ensure proper application and enforcement of EU law.

In the period 2014-2015, the Commission services performed a series of audits<sup>2</sup> to assist the

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<sup>1</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing, OJ L 303, 18.11.2009, p. 1–30.

<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/overview\\_reports/details.cfm?rep\\_id=85](http://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/overview_reports/details.cfm?rep_id=85)

Member States in identifying areas of improvement.

The Commission will also publish, before the end of 2017, a study on best practices in the field of the protection of animals at the time of killing that will further help the Member States in improving the enforcement of the legislation.

EU legislation requires operators to put in place monitoring procedures at slaughterhouses. However, EU legislation does not explicitly refer to or require the use of video surveillance in slaughterhouses.

Member States are primarily responsible for ensuring compliance with EU rules on animal welfare. Therefore, their competent authorities may decide in favour of the use of video surveillance, if they deem this necessary in their national context.

### Conclusion

The Commission considers that it is firstly for the Member States to put in place appropriate mechanisms in order to ensure compliance with EU law.

The Commission does not consider it necessary to propose legislation including the use of video surveillance for checking compliance in slaughterhouses.