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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on labelling of meat and poultry products from ritually slaughtered animals

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Lapse date: 9.12.2013

Written declaration, under Rule 123 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on labelling of meat and poultry products from ritually slaughtered animals¹

1. Article 38 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights guarantees a high level of consumer protection, while Article 7 of Directive 2005/29/EC prohibits misleading omissions liable to distort the transactional decisions of consumers;
2. Dissatisfaction has repeatedly been expressed by citizens in the Member States regarding the absence of proper meat labelling legislation that would comply with animal welfare standards and consumer protection requirements and would enable them to make an informed choice in line with their beliefs, conscience or religion;
3. Meat from ritually slaughtered animals enters the mainstream food chain, and the labelling of all products arising from ritual slaughter could enable consumers to make informed choices compatible with higher welfare standards;
4. The Commission is hence called on to take due account of the increasing interest being expressed by consumers in the issue of implementation of the Union's animal welfare legislation at the moment of slaughter;
5. The Commission is called on to step up research into how to provide consumers with the relevant information and to take action with a view to introducing the labelling of meat and poultry products from ritually slaughtered animals;
6. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Commission.

¹ In accordance with Rule 123(4) and (5) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, when the declaration is signed by a majority of Parliament's component Members, it shall be published in the minutes with the names of its signatories and forwarded to the addressees, without however binding Parliament.