

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0016/04  
by Jan Dhaene (Verts/ALE)  
to the Commission

Subject: The Grefacsa company and the treatment of animal by-products

In Spain (in the Autonomous Community of Catalonia), there is a single, publicly-owned Category I plant authorised to carry out the treatment of meat by-products under that category. This plant belongs to a company called Grefacsa (Greixos i Farines Cárniques, S.A.), based in the locality of Tèrmens, and handles specified risk materials (SRMs) that are directly related to BSE ('mad cow disease') and other contagious illnesses.

The plant treats waste which may originate from a number of Spanish regions or from Andorra. The animal waste is used as a source of animal meals and fats; subsequently, transport is arranged by the company to authorised dumping-grounds or incineration plants.

Does Grefacsa receive subsidies from EU funds? If so, for what activities are those subsidies paid? Are the by-products obtained transported to other EU Member States? Should that be the case, under what current legislation is it possible to export by-products obtained from materials classified as SRMs?