

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2149/07
by Bernat Joan i Mari (Verts/ALE)
to the Commission

Subject: Small-scale slaughterhouses - Regulation (EC) No 854/2004

The Spanish Government and the Government of the Region of Aragon have refused to implement the provisions laid down in European Parliament and Council Regulations (EC) Nos 852, 853 and 854/2004, of 29 April 2004, to adapt certain requirements in order to enable small-scale slaughterhouses in rural areas to continue to be used as a traditional way of processing food derived from extensive stockbreeding. This has led to the closure of 100 of the 125 slaughterhouses in Aragon and had serious adverse effects on traditional methods of extensive stockbreeding and rural butchers, who are being forced to sell 'industrial meat'. They are missing out on the opportunity to offer a different quality of meat from animals which are bred by the butchers themselves – meat which is healthier and tastes better than that which is processed by large-scale slaughterhouses.

Which Member States have taken additional steps to adapt to the structural requirements laid down in Article 17 of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004¹ in order to allow small-scale slaughterhouses, including butchers who slaughter the animals and sell the meat, to continue operating, provided the products are obtained hygienically?

¹ OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, p. 206.