

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2883/08
by Pilar Ayuso (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Vulture attacks on livestock

327 sheep were recently found dead at the bottom of a ravine in Toledo (Spain): they had apparently fallen over the cliff after being attacked by several vultures, according to the stockbreeders concerned. This episode joins a long list of such attacks on livestock (above all smaller animals) in Spain by vultures seeking food, as a result of the introduction of the law on animal subproducts not destined for human consumption (adopted in 2002), which means that animals which have died on livestock farms have to be removed from the open fields as a preventive measure against 'mad cow' disease. This law contains a derogation for Spain, but experts tell me that the system of *muladares* (middens where animal carcasses are dumped) is causing problems in Spain, and that far from decreasing, attacks by vultures have increased in recent years. Does the Commission intend to introduce an amendment to the Regulation in question in order to resolve this problem?