

**Question for written answer E-001919/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Training for official health inspectors focusing on traditionally manufactured food products

Foods with traditional characteristics are those manufactured in accordance with the provisions of Article 7(1)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005.

However, EU cheese dairies and traditional food producers are now at grave risk of extinction. This is because of the many difficulties arising from the unfamiliarity of health inspectors with traditional safe food production methods.

Is the Commission aware that lack of training for health inspectors regarding traditional food production methods is hampering and preventing the activities of producers, most of whom operate in rural areas that are being heavily depopulated?

Article 5(4) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on official controls sets out training requirements for official inspectors.

Will the Commission seek to improve training for official inspectors regarding traditional food production methods through initiatives such as 'Better Training for Safer Food', for example?