

**Question for written answer E-004933/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Marianne Vind (S&D)

Subject: The situation in Europe's slaughter industry

The COVID-19 crisis has brought to light the precarious working conditions in the slaughter industry. Severe outbreaks such as that at the Tönnies plant in Rheda-Wiedenbrück have shown that COVID-19 outbreaks are worse at the slaughterhouses with the poorest working conditions, and where the social partners are the most marginalised. According to a report by the European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT), the precarious working conditions in Germany are the result of systematic recourse to the subcontracting of labour ¹.

1. What is the Commission going to do to ensure that seasonal and migrant workers in the slaughter industry are guaranteed the same conditions as local employees in the sector, and that their rights are upheld?
2. How is the Commission going to ensure that the workers in question are covered by the EU's principles and legislation on equal pay for equal work in the same place?
3. Commissioner Schmit told the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* ², a German newspaper, that the Commission is planning to take legislative action. What specifically is it going to do to improve conditions for atypical workers in the EU, for example in the slaughter industry?

¹ <https://effat.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/EFFAT-Report-Covid-19-outbreaks-in-slaughterhouses-and-meat-packing-plants-State-of-affairs-and-proposals-for-policy-action-at-EU-level.pdf>

² <https://www.faz.net/aktuell/wirtschaft/eu-sozialkommissar-droht-mit-richtlinie-fuer-schlachthoefer-16815418.html>