Question for written answer E-005848/2020

to the Commission

Rule 138

France Jamet (ID)

Subject: Abolishing unlicensed slaughterhouses

Regulation (EU) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin allows farms keeping poultry and rabbits to have unlicensed slaughterhouses. This exemption is governed by a very strict framework, with both licensed and unlicensed slaughterhouses subjected to the same public health and hygiene constraints.

It enables small farms, that are often family-run, to sustain a whole section of the local economy by selling their products in an area that does not exceed 80 km (or 200 km with the approval of the local prefecture). However, the Commission now intends to remove this exemption. In France alone, there could be 3 500 establishments, the majority of which may not have the material and financial capabilities to invest in a licensed slaughterhouse.

1. What is the current status of this revision, which aims to end the exemption permitted by Regulation (EU) No 853/2004 authorising unlicensed slaughterhouses to process their products without public health and hygiene approval?

2. At a time when environmental concerns should favour short supply chains and localism, what are the reasons pushing the Commission to make a decision that could heavily penalise local economies and, eventually, cause many skills and jobs to be lost?