

**Question for written answer E-006592/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Food safety risks of imported meat from stolen and unidentified horses from Argentina

A new documentary by AWF|TSB has revealed that the food safety of horsemeat imported from Argentina is at serious risk, as unidentified and/or untagged horses and stolen horses with forged documents are structurally entering the food chain through assembly centres and slaughterhouses.

The sanitary and phytosanitary standards that are being applied are worrying, as sick and injured horses, pregnant mares and horses with an unknown drug history are entering the food chain uncontrolled. Official EU audits have confirmed that there are traceability issues.

Recent investigations, included in this documentary, prove that updated Argentinian laws on traceability and animal welfare have not changed this situation.

How does the Commission assess the food safety risks of meat from unidentified, stolen, sick and injured horses that is entering the food chain and is being imported to the EU, and how does it assess the risks of contamination that arise from keeping horses near to piles of carcasses at the assembly centres?

Is the Commission able to dispute the information presented in the documentary and in the attached dossier, and if not, is the Commission ready to suspend horsemeat imports from Argentina immediately?

Why have the Commission's actions regarding Argentinian and Mexican horsemeat been so different, given the very similar findings of EU audits in both countries?

## **Supporters<sup>1</sup>**

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