

**Question for written answer E-000392/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Virginie Joron (ID), Annika Bruna (ID)

Subject: Commission response to the ECJ ruling on stunning animals prior to slaughter

On 17 December 2020, the European Court of Justice ruled that Member States could make it mandatory for animals to be stunned before slaughter¹. It is important to note that the ECJ ruling also emphasises that Member States can introduce compulsory stunning prior to ritual slaughter carried out according to religious requirements. As a result, at EU level, there is no legal requirement preventing Member States from putting an end to slaughter without stunning, which is particularly widespread in the halal market. Furthermore, the Council has expressed² its wish to bring in a European animal welfare label that includes the method of slaughter. Nine out of ten Europeans are in favour of stunning prior to slaughter³.

Could the Commission state precisely when and how it will include the ECJ ruling in its legislative proposals, and when and how it plans to bring forward proposals that take account of the Council's clear ambition to introduce a European animal welfare label stating the method of slaughter?

¹ <https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2020-12/cp200163en.pdf>

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/fr/press/press-releases/2020/12/15/council-supports-eu-wide-animal-welfare-label/>.

³ <https://www.eurogroupforanimals.org/news/9-out-10-europeans-want-mandatory-stunning-slaughter-and-call-eu-preserve-right-member-states>.