

**Question for written answer E-002691/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Will the Commission make stunning prior to slaughter the new rule in the EU?

The Commission will soon be bringing forward a review of the legislation on animal welfare. This legislation covers livestock from rearing to slaughter, including transport.

As things stand, Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 of 24 September 2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing establishes the stunning of animals prior to slaughter as a principle, but it does allow slaughter without stunning in the case of religious slaughter.

The Court of Justice of the European Union – in its judgment of 17 December 2020 in Case C-336/19 – recognised a Member State's right to require, in the context of ritual slaughter, 'reversible, non-lethal stunning'.

In other words, Member States may prohibit slaughter without stunning. Unfortunately, however, not all the Member States are choosing to do this.

1. The European Food Safety Authority has established that slaughter without stunning causes significant suffering in animals, especially cattle, as it takes a long time for them to lose consciousness. Is the Commission ready to ban slaughter without stunning throughout the EU?
2. Will the Commission extend this ban to imports of products containing meat from animals slaughtered in third countries?

Supporter¹

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¹ This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Jean-Paul Garraud (ID)