

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1990/99
by Xaver Mayer (PPE)
to the Commission

Subject: Situation of sheep farmers in the European Union

1. The economic situation of sheep farming in the European Union has been characterised for some time by unsatisfactory earnings. This applies to earnings from meat production, but also, and particularly, to those from wool production. Sheep stocks are steadily declining as a result.
 - (a) Does the Commission intend to take measures aimed at improving the earnings situation with regard to meat and wool?
 - (b) Does the Commission regard it as necessary, in particular, to promote wool as a renewable raw material?
 - (c) What are the reasons for and against such promotion?
2. Jewish ritual slaughter of sheep and lambs on a commercial basis is prohibited in Germany. Since there is a considerable demand for such meat, however, animals are transported to neighbouring countries and undergo such slaughter there. The resulting meat is transported back to Germany.
 - (a) Does the Commission take the view that the current ban in Germany on Jewish ritual slaughter constitutes a distortion of competition?
 - (b) Should the regulations in this area be harmonised?