

**Question for written answer P-001731/2013  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Erik Bánki (PPE)**

Subject: European horsemeat scandal - contamination of beef products with horsemeat within the EU food chain

In July 2011, the European Parliament approved the Regulation on food labelling. The aim of the legislation was to ensure that consumers received appropriate and accurate information as to what they were putting in their shopping baskets and on the table at home. According to the legislation, it is mandatory to indicate the country of origin of pork, beef, lamb, goat's meat and poultry-meat as well.

However, this rule does not apply to processed meat, such as hamburgers, lasagne, etc. In 2011, during the trialogue concerning the Regulation on food labelling, the EP delegation drew attention to the inadequacy of the provisions, and therefore expressed the wish for indication of the country of origin of processed meat to be made compulsory too. However, this was not included in the ultimate text. In return, the Commission promised Parliament that it would draw up a report within two years on the possibility of extending compulsory origin labelling under EU law to processed meat products, and whether this was indeed justified at all.

The European horsemeat scandal which emerged at the beginning of February has shown that European food labelling is still seriously deficient, as regards both tracing of processed meat products in the food chain and the information provided to purchasers.

Since the adoption of the Regulation on food labelling in 2011, a year and a half has passed. What stage has the report concerning processed meat which was promised by the Commission reached?

By means of what measures, particularly legislative amendments, will the Commission prevent any similar occurrence to the scandal of horsemeat being sold as beef products?