

**Question for written answer P-013797/2013  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Jarosław Kalinowski (PPE)**

Subject: Validity of outright ban on ritual slaughter in Poland

Under Article 4(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 of 24 September 2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing (EU Official Journal L 303, 18.11.2009, p. 1), animals may be killed only after stunning. However, paragraph 4 of that article permits ritual slaughter without prior stunning in the case of animals subject to particular methods of slaughter prescribed by religious rites. Furthermore, Recital 18 states that 'this Regulation respects the freedom of religion and the right to manifest religion or belief in worship, teaching, practice and observance, as enshrined in Article 10 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union'.

Under Article 26(1) of the regulation Member States may maintain any national rules aimed at ensuring more extensive protection of animals at the time of killing, provided that they inform the Commission about such rules before 1 January 2013.

Poland is continuing to apply the outright ban on ritual slaughter established within the country by Article 34(1) of the Act of 21 August 1997 on the protection of animals (consolidated text, Polish Official Journal 2103, item 856, as amended).

1. Can an outright ban on ritual slaughter without prior stunning be considered a measure 'aimed at ensuring more extensive protection of animals' within the meaning of Article 26(1) of the above regulation?
2. In such a ban in keeping with Article 10 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union?
3. Did the letter of 27 December 2012 from the Polish Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development meet the requirements laid down in Article 26(1) of the regulation, thus enabling Poland to maintain the outright ban on ritual slaughter?