

**Question for written answer P-003878/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Béla Glattfelder (PPE)

Subject: Checking the requirements for stunning in third-country slaughterhouses

In the interest of protecting European consumers, it is important to carry out appropriate checks on third-country slaughterhouses which export meat to the EU. Stunning requirements that are the same as or equivalent to those in place in the EU have to be applied in third-country slaughterhouses. With a view to promoting the necessary transparency in relation to this issue, could the Commission please answer the following questions:

1. Can the Commission provide a list of third countries that export poultry meat to the EU, differentiating between those that apply the 'same' stunning requirements as the EU and those that apply 'equivalent' requirements?
2. Can the Commission detail which equivalent stunning standards for poultry have been presented to and/or accepted by the Commission? What role has the European Food Safety Authority played in the assessment of equivalence?
3. If the Commission does not have a clear answer to the questions regarding the stunning standards for poultry applied in third countries, does it agree that it is better to actively question the third countries concerned rather than wait for the results of inspections by the Food and Veterinary Office?
4. What steps will the Commission take if it does not receive a satisfactory answer within a reasonable time?
5. If a stunning method is assessed as 'equivalent', will the Commission permit its introduction in EU slaughterhouses?
6. In the context of Article 4(1) of Council Regulation 1099/2009/EC, the provisions of which do not apply where slaughter takes place in a slaughterhouse, has the Commission been notified by any third country that poultry meat exported to the EU may derive from fowl subjected to particular methods of slaughter prescribed by religious rites?