

**Question for written answer E-003067/2025
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Widespread use of religious slaughter practices

Article 4(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 provides a derogation from the requirement that animals be stunned before being killed if they are being slaughtered for religious rites in approved slaughterhouses.

According to recital 18 of the regulation, this derogation is based on the need to respect the freedom of religion, as enshrined in Article 10 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

However, it appears that this tolerated practice has become so commonplace that it is now the norm: religious slaughter is becoming normalised, not only for meat on the European market, but also for large volumes of the meat exported to third countries.

Is this derogation to be used solely to meet the needs of religious communities in the European Union, or does it also permit slaughter without prior stunning for Halal or Kosher meat that is to be exported to third countries?

Supporter¹

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¹ This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Anja Arndt (ESN)