

**Priority question for written answer P-001676/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: The need to properly regulate the slaughter of equine animals

According to EU law, horsemeat obtained on Union territory must come from horses that have been identified as food-producing animals (FPAs), while meat obtained from non-food-producing horses (which account for more than two thirds of Europe's equine population) cannot be used for human consumption.

However, meat imported into the Union from third countries can be obtained from any equine animal, without any distinction between FPAs and non-FPAs, with Commission Regulation (EU) No 206/2010 of 12 March 2010 and Regulation (EU) 2015/262 of 17 February 2015 setting out the health surveillance conditions in terms of residues and substances for the six months prior to slaughter. The EU must implement effective measures to put an end to the repeated distortions caused by this difference in treatment.

In the light of the above, what regulatory measures will the Commission take to align intra-Community rules with those that apply to third countries, so that meat from non-food-producing horses in the EU can also be safely used for human consumption after the six-month withdrawal period?

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