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E-002824/2026

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(21.8.2026)

Wild game hunting is inherently unpredictable, and blood dispersal in such cases is typically minimal. In contrast, the on-farm slaughter of farmed animals can be planned under controlled hygienic conditions, enabling systematic risk mitigation such as preventing pathogen transmission to humans or other animals through blood. EU food hygiene rules do not apply to the on-farm slaughter of farmed animals for private domestic consumption. When blood is intended for human consumption, it must be handled under strict hygiene conditions according to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004¹. If these requirements cannot be met, the blood must be excluded from the food chain. Only then Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009² on animal by-products not intended for human consumption starts to apply regarding the collection and disposal of blood.

The principle of proportionality was integral to the development of the EU rules, which recognise that even occasional on-farm slaughter must adhere to core hygiene standards to prevent disease spread and safeguard human health.

The Commission regularly reviews EU legislation on food hygiene and on animal by-products to improve practicality without compromising safety. Additionally, Member States may adapt certain EU food hygiene requirements to preserve traditional methods of food production or accommodate businesses in regions with specific geographic constraints. Such adaptations must be notified to the Commission in advance and must not pose a risk to public health.

¹ Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin (OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, pp. 55–205).

² Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 laying down health rules as regards animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 (Animal by-products Regulation) (OJ L 300, 14.11.2009, pp. 1–33).