

**Question for written answer E-003752/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Michael Theurer (ALDE)

Subject: Horse meat scandal - Checks by the Commission

In January 2013, Ireland was the first EU Member State to report that horse meat had been found in food labelled as beef. Mislabelling was subsequently discovered in France and many other Member States. On 28 February, Commissioner Tonio Borg said at a meeting of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety that the main responsibility for checking food labelling lay with the Member States, although the Commission does also have an obligation to verify whether food labelling laws are correctly implemented and transposed in the Member States through its Food and Veterinary Office.

Can the Commission's checks be described as efficient in the light of the horse meat scandal?

In the Commission's opinion, what can be done to avoid similar deceptive labelling in the future?

At the Commission's emergency meeting on 13 February 2013 there was talk of an action plan. How advanced is this plan, what does it include and when is it due to be implemented?

Did any of the companies that knowingly mislabelled meat products receive any EU funding?