

**Question for written answer E-000401/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Horsemeat under attack in Europe

At European level, horsemeat obtained on the territory of the Union must come from horses identified as food-producing animals and equidae not identified thus cannot be used for human consumption, with the latter representing more than 50 % of the equine population in Europe.

However, meat imported into the Union from third countries can be obtained from any equine animal, without any distinction between food-producing animals and those not intended for human consumption, 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.

In the light of the above and taking account of its remit, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Is there a practical pathway that would allow the safe production of horsemeat on EU territory, including from horses not identified as food-producing animals, imposing a 6-month suspension such as that applicable to non-EU meat?
2. What urgent measures does it intend to take to ensure that the European horsemeat market is not penalised vis-à-vis third countries?
3. Does it intend to issue a proposal allowing horses not identified as food-producing animals to be used for human consumption after 6 months of quarantine without pharmacological treatment?

Submitted: 7.2.2024