

**Question for oral answer O-000036/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 115

Matthias Groote

on behalf of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Subject: Country of origin labelling for meat in processed foods

According to the Commission's own research, 90 % of consumers want to know the origin of meat in processed foods. In the wake of the horsemeat scandal there is an even more pressing need for clear information to consumers and more transparency and accountability in the food supply chain.

On 17 December 2013, the Commission submitted a report to Parliament and the Council regarding the mandatory indication of the country of origin or place of provenance for meat used as an ingredient. The 'food information to consumers' regulation also states that the Commission may follow up on this report with proposals to modify the provisions. Does the Commission intend to follow up on this with legislative proposals?

While the Commission report, based on industry consultation, finds that indicating the country of origin of meat in processed foods may result in price increases in the range of 15 to 50 %, is the Commission aware of consumer research that finds that labelling the origin of meat in a frozen lasagne costs, on average, just an extra EUR 0.015 and EUR 0.008 for bolognese sauce¹?

Furthermore, while the Commission report states that indicating whether the meat is of EU or non-EU origin would be a much cheaper option, is the Commission aware that research has found that this would not be an acceptable solution for consumers²?

Finally, has the Commission investigated the practice of voluntary labelling of the origin of meat in processed foods which is already significantly widespread among certain European retailers?

Tabled: 14.2.2014

Forwarded: 18.2.2014

Deadline for reply: 25.2.2014

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http://image.quechoisir.org/var/ezflow_site/storage/original/application/3f1402f4ae15dd44be401127361bd6a7.pdf p. 11.

2 <http://docshare.beuc.org/Common/GetFile.asp?ID=44362&mfd=off&LogonName=GuestEN> p. 6.