

Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2014/2875(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on country of origin labelling for meat in processed food		
Subject		
3.10.02 Processed products, agri-foodstuffs		
3.10.05.01 Meat		
4.60.02 Consumer information, advertising, labelling		
4.60.04.04 Food safety		
6.20.04 Union Customs Code, tariffs, preferential arrangements, rules of origin		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		03/09/2014
		 WILLMOTT Dame	03/09/2014
		 Glenis	03/09/2014
			03/09/2014
		 GIRLING Julie	03/09/2014
		 JÄÄTTEENMÄKI Anneli	
	 TAYLOR Keith		
	 PEDICINI Piernicola		
European Commission	Commission DG Health and Food Safety	Commissioner ANDRIUKAITIS Vytenis Povilas	

Key events			
09/02/2015	Debate in Parliament		
11/02/2015	Results of vote in Parliament		
11/02/2015	Decision by Parliament	T8-0034/2015	Summary

11/02/2015

End of procedure in Parliament

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2014/2875(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Debate or resolution on oral question/interpellation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136-p5
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/8/01474

Documentation gateway					
Amendments tabled in committee		PE544.466	17/12/2014	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0097/2015	04/02/2015	EP	
Oral question/interpellation by Parliament		B8-0101/2015	09/02/2015	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0034/2015	11/02/2015	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2015)233	03/07/2015	EC	

Resolution on country of origin labelling for meat in processed food

The European Parliament adopted by 460 votes to 204, with 33 abstentions, a resolution tabled by the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, on country of origin labelling for meat in processed food.

Having regard to [Regulation \(EU\) No 1169/2011](#) on the provision of food information to consumers, the Commission published a [report](#) in December 2013 regarding the mandatory indication of the country of origin or place of provenance for meat used as an ingredient.

The Commission's own report stated that more than 90% of consumer respondents consider it important that meat origin be labelled on processed food products. It is estimated that 30% to 50%, depending on the Member State concerned, of the total slaughtered meat volume is processed into meat ingredients for foodstuffs, mostly into minced meat, meat preparations and meat products.

Taking into account the recent food scandals, such as the fraudulent substitution of horsemeat for beef, Parliament stressed that stricter rules on traceability would also enable authorities to investigate food fraud incidents more effectively.

Therefore, they supported labelling the origin of meat used as an ingredient in foods whilst highlighting that food labelling should take account of the transparency of the information and its readability for consumers.

Parliament considered that the Commission should: (i) propose clear, consistent, harmonised and enforceable rules when producers decide to implement voluntary origin labelling; (ii) investigate further the practice (which is already fairly widespread) among some European retailers and manufacturers of labelling the origin of meat in processed foods and to report its findings.

The Commission is called upon to :

- take all necessary steps to make the prevention and combating of food fraud an integral part of EU policy and to address structural weaknesses within the overall food chain, in particular by increasing and strengthening monitoring;
- adopt an implementing act concerning the application of Article 26(3) of the Food Information to Consumers Regulation, which relates to the indication of the country of origin of primary ingredients where this is not the same as that of the food product;
- follow up its 2013 report with legislative proposals making the indication of the origin of meat in processed foods mandatory in order to ensure greater transparency throughout the food chain and to better inform European consumers, while taking into account its impact assessments and avoiding excessive costs and administrative burdens given that 90% of companies in the meat processing sector are SMEs.