



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 8 May 2012**

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**AGRI 290  
VETER 36**

**NOTE**

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from:	Swedish delegation
to:	Council
Subject:	Enforcement of the general requirement to stun animals before slaughter

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Delegations will find attached a note submitted by the Swedish delegation, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 14-15 May 2012.

## **Enforcement of the general requirement to stun animals before slaughter**

According to Article 5 of Council Directive 93/119/EC on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing (to be replaced by Article 4 of 1099/2009/EC by 1 January 2013) animals should be stunned before slaughter. In the case of animals subject to particular methods of slaughter required by certain religious rites this requirement does not apply.

Recently, the Commission recognised that there is an excessive use of non-religious unstunned slaughter in some Member States. Sweden strongly opposes to this overuse of slaughter without stunning which was not foreseen by the legislator. Also, there is an increasing interest among consumers for animal welfare. Sweden therefore takes the opportunity to encourage other Member States to look into the issue of overuse and take appropriate action. Further, Sweden recommends the Commission to put the excessive use of slaughter without stunning at a higher priority. For instance, targeted controls performed by the Commission's Food and Veterinary Office could be one way forward. Sweden also suggests that a harmonised procedure for approval and control of operators performing unstunned slaughter and guidelines for best practice, based on sound science are drawn up.

Furthermore, Sweden recognises that labelling may be a tool and therefore looks forward to the Commission's report on labelling that is scheduled for 2013 in the European Union Strategy for the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2012-2015.