



ASIDCOM

Association de Sensibilisation, d'Information et de Défense de Consommateurs Musulmans

Lille, octobre 31, 2013

Mr Stéphane LE FOLL, Ministre Chargé de l'Agriculture
Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'agroalimentaire et de la forêt
78, rue de Varenne
75349 Paris 07 SP

Subject: Definition of ritual slaughter within the French regulation.

Copy :

Mr Dalil BOUBKAR, President of CFCM and Rector of the Paris Mosque
Mr Mohammed MOUSSAOUI, Honorary President of CFCM (the French Muslim Worship Council)
Mr Amar LASFAR, President of UOIF (Union of the French Islamic Organizations)
Mr Joël MERGUI, Chairman of the Central Israelite Consistory of France
Mr Bruno FISZON, Rabbi of Moselle, the Chief Rabbi of France Advisor, on Ritual Slaughter
Mr Khalil MERROUN, Rector of Evry Mosque
Mr Kamale KAPTANE, Rector of Lyon Mosque
Dr Bernard VALLAT, OIE General Director
Dr M. Hassan AIDAROS, Member of the OIE Animal Welfare Group

Dear Honorable Minister,

ASIDCOM is an association governed by the law of 1901 that aims to inform, educate and defend Muslim consumers. Our association on October 9, 2013 answered a request to have an interview with researchers from INRA (The National Institute for Food Research) and ANSES (The National Agency for the Safety of Food, the Environment and Labor). We were solicited to participate in one of the studies conducted within the framework of the collective construction, dissemination and implementation of good practice guidelines for animal slaughter as part of the implementation of the European Regulation 1099/2009.

Having read Version 2.1 - 18/06/2012 of the "Guideline for good practices: control of cattle animal welfare in slaughter", the opinion of ANSES and its expert report, of July 2013, ASIDCOM felt the need to ask for clarification of the regulations currently in force: To determine the difference between the terms "ritual slaughter" and "slaughter without stunning." Of particular concern is the notion of including any form of stunning within the definition of ritual slaughter. It is indeed essential for Muslim consumers, who are concerned with eating according to their religious belief, to follow and understand the evolution of the regulatory recognition of their right to freedom of worship. Can you, then, answer the following specific questions?

- What is the exact definition of ritual slaughter, according to the French law?
- What is the difference between slaughter without stunning and ritual slaughter?
- Under Article R210-70 of the Rural Code, it is said:

"I. - The stunning of animals is mandatory before slaughter or killing, with the exception of the following cases:

1° If this stunning is not compatible with the practice of ritual slaughter

..... "

'II. The methods of stunning and killing mentioned in I and the species to which they would be applied shall be determined by order of the Minister of Agriculture. "

Can you tell us, how do you judge that a stunning method is compatible with the ritual slaughter?

Your answers will be of a great help to remove some of the ambiguities that we encounter regularly when reading official and/or technical documents on the practice and organization of the ritual slaughter of animals in France.

Waiting to receive your answer. Best regards,

On behalf of ASIDCOM board of directors

Président, Hanen REZGUI PIZETTE