

**Question for written answer E-015465/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mara Bizzotto (ENF)

Subject: Italian sausages and red meat: concern at WHO warnings of 24 October

On 24 October, having analysed the findings of the survey conducted by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced the inclusion of processed and red meats on a list of 'harmful and potentially carcinogenic products, including also tobacco.

Although many scientists have already questioned the scientific merits of this study, the WHO warnings have unleashed an instant media panic. TV channels and newspapers worldwide are constantly talking up the cancer risk of red meat and sausages, spreading alarm among the general public and causing a massive drop in sales.

It should be noted in this connection that health standards and inspections regarding Italian meats are among the most stringent in the world and that meat produced in the Veneto also bears a regional 'QV' quality certification for the purposes of consumer protection. Furthermore, Italian meat products such as a Prosciutto di Parma and San Daniele are of a very high standard and are included among European Union protected designations of origin.

In view of this:

- What view does the Commission take of the document in question and the WHO decision?
- What urgent measures will it take to assist Italian red meat and sausage producers?
- Will it launch an information campaign without delay to reassure consumers and avoid unnecessary panic?