Question for written answer E-015398/2015 to the Commission Rule 130 Auke Zijlstra (ENF)

Subject: Ban on supermarkets selling cut-price chicken in kilo packages: meat just for the rich in

Holland

On 1 December 2015 the Dutch Labour Party, a coalition partner in the Netherlands Government, proposed that the sale of cheap chicken by supermarkets in 1 kg packages (known as 'kiloknallers' in Dutch) should be banned by law.

The EU has a single market which aims on the one hand at maximising freedom of choice for the consumer, and on the other at achieving business efficiency by means of competition. Given the apparent contradiction between the proposed law and the operation of the single market, I have the following questions:

In the Commission's view, is it permissible under the rules of the European single market for a Member State to place an upper limit on package size for consumer goods, or to impose a minimum price for a specific package size?

If so, is it permissible for the minimum price to apply solely to particular sales outlets, such as supermarkets?

How can a ban be reconciled with the rights of exporters in other EU states to place cheap chicken products, packaged by the kilo, on the market in the Netherlands at competitive prices?

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