

Shechita UK

Dear Mr Arnold,

As you may already be aware, Shechita UK has been extremely concerned about an amendment to a European Union Regulation which, if successful, could significantly impact on the kosher meat industry in the UK and across the EU, imperilling its economic viability. Opponents of Shechita, who have failed in previous attempts to ban it, are now trying again using the smokescreen of 'consumer rights'.

Unfortunately, the regulation has already cleared its first hurdle by getting approval at a 'first reading' in the European Parliament and it is crucial that the bill makes no further progress. We expect that the next stage, a meeting of the Council of Ministers, will take place very shortly and Shechita UK has in place a professionally managed lobbying campaign aimed at targeting the relevant ministers. It is essential however that we mobilise the Jewish community in the coming weeks so that the relevant MEPs and Andrew Lansley, the Health Secretary, are left in no doubt about the strength of feeling of the Jewish community on this issue.

Whilst recognising how difficult it may be to find a free evening at such a busy time in the Shul calendar, we're asking a small number of large Synagogues to call an emergency meeting in order for Shechita UK to outline the severity of the situation and to explain what they can do to help. Although there is no formal timetable, we think that the meeting of the Council of Ministers could take place before the end of September which obviously increases the time pressure on us.

Please do let us know if and when you might be able to arrange an emergency meeting so that we can ensure that a representative of Shechita UK is able to attend and deliver a presentation to the community.

Yours sincerely,



Henry Grunwald QC OBE
Chairman