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Halal and Kosher slaughter methods to be banned in Belgium

By LAURA CAT – 31 December 2018



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Belgium parliament unanimously **vote to end** Kosher and Halal slaughter methods to take effect beginning 1 January 2019 in the Flanders region and 1 August 2019 in Walloon.

The new rules were voted in Wallonia in May and the Flanders region in June 2017 and stipulates that animals must be stunned before being killed. This is forbidden in Judaism and Islam for the preparation of kosher and halal meat.

Pinchas Goldschmidt, the head of the Conference of European Rabbis has spoken out against the move saying it is "a sad day for the Jews of Europe, a sad day for religious freedom in Europe".

How kosher and halal meat are produced has been an area of contention with animal rights activists as both Judaism and Islam believe that they can only eat meat from animals whose throats are cut whilst they are still conscious. As well, the animals when slaughtered should completely bleed out.

The regional government in Lower Austria was criticised earlier in the year for their plans to limit access to kosher and halal meat as believers would be required to register to buy meat from animals slaughtered according to the religious laws.

Religious slaughter methods are forbidden in Germany with some exceptions being

allowed. In Austria approved slaughter houses in presence of a veterinarian are all that is allowed.

The restriction of Kosher and Halal methods is being debated in Poland, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

<https://voiceofeurope.com/2018/12/halal-and-kosher-slaughter-methods-to-be-banned-in-belgium/>

