



# ThinkOut

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In Belgium each year when the Sacrifice Feast comes closer, they start the debate about halal cutting of animals, not only by right wing parties but also by the center parties.

This in order to gain votes during the upcoming elections.

In Belgium a law has been approved forbidding halal cutting, of course with the elections of 2018 in mind.

I don't use the word slaughter because neither Muslims nor Jews slaughter animals.

The new law will introduced in 2019, defines that small animals has to be stunned before cutting. For the big animals like cows the stunning will take place after cutting.

This is very horrifying. A few days ago the horrific images of a slaughterhouse in Izegem were shown, the animals were so called stunned by electroshocks given with big sticks. The animals were not stunned or unconscious, they were in heavy pains. The animals were under a lot of stress by seeing the other animals being butchered.

These are practices totally nothing to do with halal or kosjer.

The prohibition of halal will cause eventually to the restriction of the freedom of religion of both Muslims and Jews, as the Muslims will not be able to cut meat during the Sacrifice Feast and the Jews who will be obliged to import their meat from outside Belgium.

ThinkOut asks OSCE to point to the member states to make laws by respecting the freedom of religion for all their citizens.