Question for written answer E-001452/2024
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: The need for reinforced border checks on live animal imports

Nearly 10 000 sheep and goats have been culled since the first case of the Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) virus was detected on 11 July at a livestock farm in Kastraki, Kalampaka. From that first case, it emerged that this specific zoonotic disease had resulted from uncontrolled imports.

It should be noted that a total of 18 cases of the PPR virus have been detected to date, all of which have been recorded in Trikala and Larissa. Nearly two thirds of the 300 000 animals in these two regional units have been checked and 18 infection cases have been detected.

Although checks have been ordered to detect cases of the virus, monitoring is needed in order to uncover the full picture. Unfortunately, there are unacceptable images of animal 'burials' that took place without following the health standards in place.

The strict import rules concerning food and feed hygiene, consumer safety and animal health status aim to ensure that all imports fulfil the same high standards as products from the EU itself. Checks on live animal imports are of vital importance in verifying compliance with the relevant requirements.

In view of this:

1. Given that the Commission is monitoring the implementation of detailed EU legislation on border controls and that it is aware of the degree to which Greece is complying with these controls, does the Commission not agree that more vets are needed at the borders?

2. Bearing in mind that Greece is entitled to ask for increased EU support for the appropriate checks to be carried out on live animal imports at the borders, what requests has it made over the last five years?

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