Question for written answer E-000082/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Health checks on imported meat

Given the Commission's own published data, showing that in 2024 only 0.0082% of the more than 4.777 billion products imported into the EU were subjected to physical checks, and the fact that 16.4% of the products inspected were rejected for failing to comply with health, safety or quality standards, it is difficult to argue that the current border control system ensures European consumers are adequately protected. This also gives rise to blatantly unfair competition for EU producers, who are obliged to comply with increasingly strict standards, while goods from third countries are waved through into the EU market with clearly insufficient checks.

1. In this context, and given the trade agreements in force or under negotiation with countries whose regulatory frameworks differ significantly from that of the EU, what does the European Commission intend to do to ensure a minimum level of mandatory, binding and effective inspections in all Member States?

2. Does the Commission intend to reform the current legislation in order to strengthen border controls, establish penalty mechanisms for non-compliance and ensure that imports meet the same standards required of European producers?

Submitted: 12.1.2026