Question for written answer E-001772/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Systemic shortcomings in food safety controls and imports in the EU

Recent cases in several Member States have raised serious concerns about the effectiveness of controls across the food supply chain for products placed on the EU market. These cases include food products that were past their shelf life, of unclear origin, or found to contain non-compliant pesticide levels.

These are not isolated cases. Data for 2025 indicate hundreds of alerts per month within the RASFF[1] system, while data from early 2026 confirm weekly alerts regarding unsafe food. At the same time, a significant number of suspected food fraud cases are being recorded, including issues related to traceability, origin and the unlawful extension of shelf life. Recurring cases of excessive pesticide levels in imported products also raise concerns about whether all EU consumers benefit from equal levels of protection and whether a level playing field is ensured within the internal market.

In this context:

1. How does the Commission assess the effectiveness of existing EU-level mechanisms for controlling food imports from non-EU countries, particularly regarding risk management and traceability?

2. How will the Commission ensure that its new AI tool[2] enhances prevention rather than merely reaction?

3. Does the Commission envisage additional measures to guarantee uniform standards and equal protection for all consumers in the EU?

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[1] The Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) was established to facilitate the exchange of information between Member States and to support swift action by food safety authorities in cases of risks to public health arising from the food chain.

[2] On 10 March 2026, the Commission presented a new artificial intelligence platform, TraceMap, aimed at accelerating the detection of food fraud, contaminated food and foodborne disease outbreaks across the EU.