

**Question for written answer E-001918/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)

Subject: Dangerous Turkish peppers on the European market

A clear and recurring pattern of problems with Turkish pepper imports into the EU, due to excessive or banned pesticides, has been recorded in 2025–2026.

In 2025, the RASFF system recorded 27 European alerts for Turkish peppers, of which eight concerned the substance formetanate, a toxic substance not accepted even in Türkiye. In 2026, the serious incidents continued: Bulgaria activated multiple alerts for peppers with abamectin and pirimiphos methyl, while in another case tebufenopyrad was detected at approximately 35 times above the EU limit, resulting in the classification of ‘serious risk’ and the import of the load being prohibited at the border.

At the same time, Romania issued a warning about Turkish red kapya peppers due to excess cadmium. These substances are linked to neurotoxicity, cholinesterase inhibition, possible effects on child development, liver toxicity and, in the case of cadmium, long-term carcinogenic effects.

Organisations such as PAN Europe and Greenpeace Türkiye are now speaking out about a systemic problem concerning the reliability of Turkish food exports.

Unfortunately, the Greek authorities have not reported the detection of contaminated Turkish peppers over the past two years.

At the same time, Greece exceeds the EU average in blood cancers, non-Hodgkin lymphomas, leukemia and myelodysplastic syndromes.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission consider the current framework for protecting consumers against imports of substances associated with serious haematological and neurotoxic effects to be adequate?
2. How does the Commission assess the adequacy of the checks carried out by the Greek authorities on imported Turkish fruit and vegetables with repeated RASFF notifications?

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