

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002591/24
to the Commission
Jorge Buxadé Villalba (Pfe)
(20 November 2024)**

Subject: Number of detections per EU port

Europhyt's October 2024 report on the number of cases of harmful organisms in goods imported into the European Union shows that there were 108 cases of contaminated products entering the EU ⁽¹⁾. However, the report does not provide any details regarding the specific European ports through which these products entered, nor the number of total controls carried out. This shows an alarming lack of transparency on the part of the European Commission.

In view of this:

1. Through which EU ports were these goods containing harmful organisms imported from third countries?
2. How many inspections in total were carried out to detect these 108 cases of harmful organisms in goods imported into the European Union?

Submitted: 20.11.2024

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(6 March 2025)**

Monthly reports of harmful organisms detected in imported plants, plant products and other objects are based on data recorded in TRACES ⁽¹⁾ by the competent authorities of the Member States and Switzerland.

The rules on official controls are laid down in Regulation (EU) 2017/625 ⁽²⁾ as regards consignments entering from third countries that might pose a risk to plant health in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 ⁽³⁾.

The Member States ensure the uniform implementation of these rules. Therefore, the outcome of the official controls performed and recorded in TRACES by the competent authorities of the border control posts of the EU is published by the Commission as occurring at EU borders ⁽⁴⁾, rather than at specific points of entry.

During the month of October 2024, the competent authorities of the EU conducted a total of 43 443 physical checks on consignments of plants, plant and other products from third countries entering the Union territory.

¹ https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/614845b7-67a3-447a-9a09-1b16297568fd_en?filename=ph_biosec_traces-interceptions-2024-10.pdf

⁽¹⁾ The Commission's online platform for animal and plant health certification required for the importation of animals, animal products, food and feed of non-animal origin and plants into the European Union, and the intra-EU trade and EU exports of animals and certain animal products — TRACES: https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/traces_en#traces-at-a-glance

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02017R0625-20220128&qid=1736852032353>

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02016R2031-20191214&qid=1736852094734>

⁽⁴⁾ Interceptions https://food.ec.europa.eu/plants/plant-health-and-biosecurity/europhyt/interceptions_en