

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002309/25
to the Commission
Galato Alexandraki (ECR)
(10 June 2025)**

Subject: Lack of controls on fruit and vegetable imports in Greece

According to complaints from exporting entities, the necessary customs controls on fresh fruit and vegetable imports are not being applied in Greece, resulting in a violation of the European entry price system and unfair competition for Greek producers.

For example, in the first quarter of 2025, 1 271 tonnes of oranges were imported from Egypt but registered as of Bulgarian and Romanian origin, artificially increasing their price from EUR 0.43 to EUR 0.83 per kilo, without the imposition of duties. In 2024, a total of 861 000 tonnes of fruit and vegetables were imported, of which 155 000 tonnes were not registered by the Ministry of Rural Development. Similarly, out of 1 790 000 tonnes of exports, 150 000 tonnes are of unspecified origin, demonstrating a serious lack of interoperability with the Hellenic Statistical Authority.

In view of the above:

1. How does the Commission intend to ensure the application of the entry price system at Greek customs (which constitute European borders)?
2. Does the Commission intend to investigate the allegations of non-EU country products being ‘christened’ as intra-Community products in order to avoid duties and mislead consumers?

Submitted: 10.6.2025

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(1 August 2025)**

Under the EU Customs Code, national authorities have a primary responsibility to monitor the application of the relevant legal provisions through customs controls.

As an entry point in the EU, Greek customs authorities carry out appropriate controls on agricultural imports from third countries, including those from Egypt, ensuring they comply with the EU’s Entry Price system ⁽¹⁾.

Goods entering Greece from other Member States — such as Bulgaria and Romania — were already subject to the customs checks in those countries, when they are released for free circulation there.

They are not subject to systematic customs controls in Greece, as they circulate freely within the internal market. In its role as guardian of the Treaties, the Commission supports and monitors the proper application of the Entry Price System by national customs authorities, including through the use of surveillance tools and cooperation mechanisms.

If systemic issues are detected, the Commission may engage with the national authorities concerned or take further steps to ensure compliance with EU law, including investigations (in case of fraud) and infringement proceedings.

The Commission services cannot take position on allegations regarding a specific case without additional information. The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) has the mandate to investigate suspicions of fraud in specific cases.

If such investigations show that national authorities systematically fail to apply EU law, or if the Commission receives proof of a consistent incorrect application of EU law in a particular Member State, it may also initiate infringement procedures against a particular Member State.

⁽¹⁾ <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/glossary/entry-price-system-eu>.