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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.11.2025)

The Commission carries out controls in accordance with a multi-annual plan aimed at monitoring the implementation and enforcement of EU legislation on food safety. The main principle is risk-based prioritisation, audits are not chosen randomly but based on risk analysis and strategic priorities. The risk factors include, inter alia, past audit results, type of products, higher-risk products (like raw meat or seafood) trigger more frequent audits, complaints or notifications, i.e. information from RASFF (Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed) or regulatory changes.

The work programme with the audits carried out in 2024 and 2025 is publicly available¹. Furthermore, the audits foreseen in 2025 (from July to December) are publicly available².

One of the objectives for the 2021-2025 plan is to verify Member States' compliance with the applicable EU food safety legislation governing the production and placing on the market of fishery products in most Member States. For example, in 2024, Estonia, France, Italy, Poland, and Portugal were audited, and for 2025, audits in Cyprus, Denmark, Luxembourg, and Malta have been carried out or are planned.

¹ <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2875/963872>.

² https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/7b379fb9-f02c-4671-9015-3b8aa3297255_en?filename=hfaa_prog_en_2025_07-12.pdf.