

EN

E-004604/2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(24.2.2026)

In accordance with Article 64 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625¹, the minimum requirements for border control posts (BCPs) include the obligation to have, among other elements, a sufficient number of suitably qualified staff, premises appropriate to the nature and volume of the animals and goods handled, and the technology and equipment necessary for the efficient operation of official controls.

The Commission regularly audits Member States to verify the implementation of border controls, including the compliance of BCPs with minimum requirements. Audit reports are published on the Commission's website². In general, there have been no indications that the staffing levels at BCPs are insufficient to handle the volumes of animals and goods entering the EU.

As part of the actions foreseen to strengthen import controls, the Commission has established a dedicated EU Task Force on Import Controls³ to make the system more efficient, focusing in particular on pesticide residues, food and feed safety and animal welfare, and possible coordinated EU monitoring actions on specific imported products.

The planned actions include an increase in audits of non-EU country and of EU border control posts over the next two years. The Commission has also strengthened its monitoring of non-compliant products, its technical support to Member States, and the training provided to staff of national authorities.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/625/oj/eng>.

² <https://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit-report>.

³ https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/official-controls-and-enforcement/import-controls-food-and-feed-qas_en.