

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000507/26
to the Commission
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)
(8 February 2026)**

Subject: Unsafe Turkish agricultural exports to the EU market

Previous reports and recent scientific analyses and published data from the European Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) show repeated alerts concerning agricultural products of Turkish origin, in particular fruit and vegetables with excessive pesticide residue or the presence of non-approved active substances, as well as incidents of mycotoxins in dried products. In the analyses, Turkish products represent an exceptionally high proportion of the risk alerts recorded on imports into the EU.

Given that the protection of public health, food safety and equal treatment of EU producers are fundamental principles of the single market:

1. How does the Commission assess the systematic nature and severity of the repeated RASFF alerts concerning Turkish agricultural products in recent years?
2. Is the Commission considering strengthening border controls, introducing increased sampling rates or other preventive measures for specific categories of high-risk products?
3. What cooperation or compliance actions have been requested from the Turkish authorities to ensure full alignment with EU food safety standards and prevent unfair competition to the detriment of European producers?

Submitted: 8.2.2026

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(27 April 2026)**

Food products from third countries, regardless of their origin, must comply with EU food safety requirements laid down in EU legislation. According to Regulation (EU) 2017/625 ⁽¹⁾, Member States must carry out risk based official controls and enforcement activities among others at the stage of distribution, including for imports.

Where food of non-animal originating from third countries poses a risk, the Commission may adopt measures through Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 ⁽²⁾, including increased control frequency, sampling and laboratory analysis and special conditions governing their entry into the EU.

Several products originating from Türkiye are listed in Annexes of Regulation (EU) 2019/1793. Each consignment of goods listed in Annex II to that regulation must be accompanied by an official certificate and the results of laboratory analyses issued by the Turkish competent authority.

These measures are reviewed at least twice a year and adjusted as necessary, considering new information related to risks and instances of non-compliance, including information from Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) notifications, and other available information provided by the Member States.

The Commission performs audits in Member States and in third countries to ensure that their official control systems guarantee that goods intended for export to the EU comply with the applicable EU rules ⁽³⁾.

On 9 December 2025 the Commission announced a series of measures to strengthen import controls at EU borders and in third countries, among them (i) 50% increase of audits in non-EU countries, (ii) 33% increase of audits in EU border control posts, and (iii) training for over 600 national authority staff.

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

⁽²⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2019/1793/oj.

⁽³⁾ Health and Food Audits and Analysis https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/official-controls-and-enforcement/health-and-food-audits-and-analysis_en.