

EN
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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.6.2026)

During the audit in China in November 2025 on poultry meat products¹, significant deficiencies were identified and addressed with the authorities in a closure meeting. The audit team emphasised concerns about the safety of poultry meat products, particularly in the event of inadequate corrective measures. These concerns were reiterated in follow-up communications, alongside an urgent request to the Chinese authorities for taking prompt remedial actions to key recommendations. The risk of delisting China for these exports was also underscored should the required improvements fail to materialise within the stipulated timeframe.

Whilst the Commission maintains a zero-tolerance policy toward food safety risks, the risk management procedure considered several mitigating factors. Under the current EU rules, imports of fresh poultry meat from China are not allowed². In addition, all poultry meat products from China must be sterilised, except for poultry meat products from the province of Shandong, for which a less severe risk-mitigation treatment³ suffices. The relatively low incidence of RASFF⁴ notifications pertaining to imports of Chinese poultry meat products further informed the Commission's evaluation of the risks.

In response to the audit findings, China submitted a thorough action plan, detailing both immediate measures and long-term initiatives to address the shortcomings. The Commission assessed it as satisfactory, contingent upon its timely, effective, and rigorous implementation. To ensure compliance, a follow-up audit will be conducted in China in 2026.

In 2025, Member States imported 73 000 tonnes of poultry meat products from China. They were informed via the publication of the audit report on 19 February 2026⁵.

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit-report/details/4968>.

² http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2021/404/oj.

³ E.g.: minimum core temperature of 70°C.

⁴ Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed.

⁵ China CT-2025-0037 - Food Audits and Analysis: <https://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit-report/details/4968>.