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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.7.2026)

The EU ensures that third-country food imports meet EU food safety standards through a robust legal framework backed by a strong system of official controls which protects consumers by preventing the entry of unsafe products into the EU's territory. The Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) facilitates instant information exchange, enabling swift, coordinated action across the EU whenever risks are identified. The Commission may conduct audits in third countries and suspend or even ban imports where serious deficiencies are found. Regular bilateral dialogues between the EU and key trading partners encourage closer regulatory alignment, while the EU's active role in Codex Alimentarius helps elevate food safety standards globally.

The contaminated ingredient in the infant formula products, arachidonic acid-rich oil, is produced by fermentation. Both the Life Sciences Strategy¹ and Bioeconomy Strategy² recognise the importance of advanced fermentation technologies. The Commission is pursuing activities related to their development and deployment, benefiting the EU fermentation ecosystem.

¹ COM/2025/525 final.

² COM/2025/960 final.