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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(13.4.2026)

Food products placed on the EU market must comply with very stringent requirements to protect human, animal and plant health. These requirements apply to all products no matter they are produced in the EU or not. Member States must carry out official controls and enforcement activities according to Regulation (EU) 2017/625¹, including at the stage of import to ensure that only products in compliance with the applicable legislation are placed on the EU market.

Where food of non-animal origin from third countries poses a contamination risk, the Commission may take measures through Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793². These measures may include checks at border control posts at harmonised frequencies, or stricter certification/testing requirements. Tomatoes and tomato products from Egypt are currently not subject to such measures.

Under the Vision for Agriculture and Food³, the Commission will pursue a stronger alignment of production standards applied to imported products. In addition, on 9 December 2025⁴, 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.

In addition, enterprises active on the EU market will be required to respect the rules provided in Directive (EU) 2024/1760 on corporate sustainability due diligence⁵.

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

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

³ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/overview-vision-agriculture-food/vision-agriculture-and-food_en.

⁴ At the Implementation dialogue on import controls.

⁵ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1760/oj>.