

**Question for written answer E-008002/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Checks on lemon imports from Turkey

In 2015 Turkish lemons were placed on the watch list of potentially dangerous products following the detection of biphenyl residues of up to 8.56 mg/kg in ten batches, while the maximum admissible level in EU law is 0.01 mg/kg.

The ASAJA association of young farmers has reported that a batch of lemons from Turkey has been refused entry into the EU as a result of levels of chlorpyrifos pesticide of 0.497 mg/kg, well over the EU limit set at 0.20 mg/kg.

At this time, in the middle of the lemon season, and given the great efforts made by farmers to grow produce of the highest quality in accordance with EU standards, the possibility of products not meeting our safety standards entering our market cannot be tolerated.

In this context, what specific measures is the Commission taking to step up EU customs checks on this product?

Given the major threat that this poses to food safety, does the Commission intend to implement a protection strategy to coordinate and harmonise border inspection services?