

**Question for written answer E-001185/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Plant health inspections of goods from countries outside the Schengen area

Plant products originating from a country outside the Schengen area are subject to plant health checks in order to establish whether they pose a threat to plant species on EU territory. However, the French plant control services have decided to apply European rules more strictly than their European counterparts, which is detrimental to the French port professions undergoing these checks.

The effect of this decision is to violate the principle of equal treatment enshrined in EU law and to create unfair competition between French port professions and those of other countries.

Faced with tighter controls in France, exporters of plant goods will favour the ports of other EU countries in order to bypass French controls. This will not prevent potentially dangerous goods from entering EU territory and means a loss of business for French companies.

In view of the above, will the Commission consider:

1. Reminding the French services that they have a supreme obligation strictly to apply EU law on plant health controls?
2. Reviewing its requirements for controls to bring them in line with those of the French services in order to maintain fair competition between all EU players while protecting plant species on the territory of the EU?