

**Question for written answer E-003474/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Renaud Muselier (PPE)

Subject: Failure to enforce Regulation (EU) 2016/1842 as regards the electronic certificate of inspection for imported organic products

Organic products imported from a country outside the Schengen area have to have an electronic organic certificate, which is checked by the proper national authorities. France, however, has not yet set up a checking system for electronic certificates of this type.

That fact poses two problems. Firstly, the French authorities are not complying with EU legislation, since electronic certificates are printed out and checked in paper form. Secondly, checking the printouts creates serious practical difficulties because the customs services are geographically scattered, instead of being grouped together at the points of entry for goods. This inevitably causes great damage to French producers and places them on a grossly unequal footing with other European producers, thus leading to unfair competition.

1. Will the Commission draw the attention of the French authorities to the obligation of applying EU legislation relating to the inspection of organic goods and of introducing electronic checking of organic certificates as quickly as possible?
2. Will it remind the French authorities that they must ensure that checkpoints are geographically close to points of entry so as to shorten the time needed to carry out physical checks?