

**Question for written answer E-002343/2019  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Ignazio Corrao (NI)**

Subject: Contaminated wheat imports: checks at EU ports

Sicilian wheat producers are currently facing serious difficulties, largely as a result of the indiscriminate entry through ports all over Europe, such as Rotterdam, Marseilles and

Hamburg, of low-quality wheat from third countries that often contains prohibited substances as well as glyphosate. Once a vessel has been admitted, to Rotterdam for example, its cargo of wheat can move freely throughout the EU, being transported by internal carriers as EU cargo into Italian territory, bypassing Italian controls.

The Italian customs authorities indicate that health and customs controls at their national border are more stringent than those carried out at European ports, which are called upon to deal with larger third-country wheat import volumes and are failing to carry out adequate sampling.

In Italy, all third-country wheat is subjected to sampling, while only sporadic checks are carried out on EU wheat.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say what checks are carried out on wheat arriving in European ports?
2. Are the ports of arrival properly equipped to detect glyphosate?
3. Are port authorities required to carry out specified minimum checks in percentage terms or is this being left to their discretion and that of the Member States in question?