

**Question for written answer P-001365/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Olga Sehnalová (S&D)

Subject: Extraordinary checks on Polish beef imports

On 21 February 2019, the Czech Republic introduced the extraordinary checks on Polish beef imports which it is entitled to operate for consumer health protection reasons under the relevant provisions of Regulation 178/2002. This was done in response to the discovery by Czech vets of salmonella bacteria in a 700-kilogram consignment of meat from Poland, which was proven to have reached the end-consumer through restaurants, schools and other channels.

All food business operators accepting beef from Poland in the Czech Republic must ensure at the place of destination that a laboratory examination is carried out on each consignment to prove its medical harmlessness.

A few days later Commissioner Andriukaitis responded to the Czech measure, however calling the controls on Polish meat disproportionate and calling on the Czech Republic to end them.

These measures are obligatory for entities in the Czech Republic and in no way impede trade in the single market or create obstacles. Their only purpose is to protect the health of Czech consumers.

Why does the Commission regard consumer health protection differently from the Czech Republic?

How serious would the consumer health risk have to be for the Commission to consider the measure to be sufficiently justified?

If the Commission considers the Czech measure unjustified, has it taken any steps towards resolving the problem on the Polish side?