

**Question for written answer E-9237/2010  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Catherine Soullie (PPE)**

Subject: Tackling food trafficking in Europe

The first European seminar on food trafficking, held in Paris from 6 to 8 October, showed that there is an urgent need to tackle this issue. The EU has already taken many steps to increase food safety as part of the 'farm to fork' approach.

However, it appears that this is still not enough, given the increasing number of goods on the market that are unfit for consumption. Since the problem arises from both the adverse effects of free movement and the economic consequences of the global crisis, it would seem that European action is needed.

Indeed, the number of food traffickers is increasing because there are still so few risks involved.

What action does the Commission plan to take to step up checks and impose more stringent penalties throughout the EU?

Given that the problem is caused not just by criminals but often by companies that are either negligent or looking to make a profit, should a campaign not be organised to raise their corporate awareness?

Finally, although the problem is clearly widespread, its full extent is unknown. Does the Commission plan to obtain more precise statistics from Eurostat in order to determine the best approach?