

Question for written answer E-000239/2011
to the Commission
Rule 117
Hynek Fajmon (ECR)

Subject: Reaction of the EU and the Member States to the excessive levels of dioxins in foodstuffs in Germany

At the end of 2010, certain foods in Germany were found to be contaminated with excessive levels of dioxins. Subsequently, these foods were also found in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, to which they had been exported from Germany. These food products are now also subject to random checks in the Czech Republic. In view of the serious implications of this case for human health and consumer protection, the Commission is asked to answer the following questions.

1. Is the European Commission considering the possibility of banning the trade in these potentially contaminated categories of foodstuffs from Germany?
2. Do Member States have the right, in order to protect human health, to invoke Article 36 TFEU, which permits the prohibition or restriction of imports of such goods?
3. Can Member States invoke Article 114(10) TFEU and its safeguard clause, which authorises the Member States to take provisional measures?
4. If contaminated goods are found, would it be possible, with reference to the above mentioned articles, to impose a temporary ban on imports of such products?