

**Question for written answer E-005364/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Igor Šoltes (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: EU's unsatisfactory response to the tainted-egg scandal

In recent weeks, there has been growing concern across Europe raised by the incident involving contaminated eggs containing the insecticide Fipronil, which may potentially harm the liver, thyroid and kidney functions. Several million contaminated eggs were found in more than one half of EU countries, as well as outside Europe. This incident points to a lack of supervision and control over the supply chain and food safety standards which, in practice, are clearly being bypassed by some food companies seeking to increase their profits. This incident has also exposed a highly ineffective and much-delayed response to such scandals at the EU level and to inadequate mechanisms for protecting European citizens in the event of cross-border violations of food safety standards, and the communication and exchange of information among the EU countries was very poor. This is unacceptable since we are dealing with a potential human health risk that calls for quick and effective actions. The safety of EU citizens and food safety should be the EU's top priority.

In light of this can the Commission say:

What action will be taken to improve the supervision and control over the supply chain in the EU and to increase its transparency?

What measures will be taken to improve the supervision of food safety in the EU?

What measures will be taken to establish a more effective EU-wide system for responding to such scandals that have direct implications for human health?