

**Question for written answer E-000521/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Food inspection deficiencies in Colombia

The Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) conducts regular food inspections in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules, such as the DG(SANTE)/2019-6695 inspection in Colombia. The inspection highlighted serious deficiencies, such as a lack of records of the double use of cargo holds in freezer vessels (i.e. fish holds used initially for storing fuel and subsequently for freezing and storing frozen products) (see point 5.2.41), and a lack of hygiene and unloading inspections (see point 5.1.8).

1. How can the Commission justify not imposing sanctions on Colombia, given the glaring deficiencies with regard to applicable EU law which were uncovered in this case?
2. Why was no immediate import ban imposed when these serious deficiencies came to light?