

**Question for written answer E-000569/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Entry of hazardous food items into the EU

On 21 January 2020, customs and excise officers in Padua's provincial Guardia Finanza seized and ordered the destruction of nearly 10 tonnes of pork from China which could potentially be infected with swine fever.

These food items had entered the EU illegally, in contravention of customs and health rules, through the port of Rotterdam in the Netherlands.

In view of the current health alert, consumer health risks and the considerable financial damage to EU businesses:

1. Does the Commission believe mandatory country-of-origin labelling should be extended to pork by-products?
2. Does it believe that procedures for entry of foodstuffs into the European Union should be stepped up and made tougher?
3. How does it plan to tighten up the system for inspection and control of goods at point of entry given that, as described above, hazardous items entered the EU in contravention of customs and health rules?