

**Question for written answer E-005396/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Failings of CETA and presence of hormone-treated meat on the European market

An audit¹ carried out by the Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety aimed at assessing the traceability of Canadian pork and beef intended for export under the CETA free trade agreement has uncovered serious failings.

While the CETA opened the European beef market to Canadian exporters, the audit has revealed loopholes in Canadian legislation which make it possible for hormone-treated beef to be labelled 'hormone-free'.

Since Council Directive 96/22/EC of 29 April 1996² formally prohibits the marketing of beef intended for human consumption which has been treated with substances having a thyrostatic, oestrogenic, androgenic or gestagenic action and β -agonists (scientific names of the hormones),

1. Does the Commission think that this situation constitutes a breach of European law and the free trade agreement signed with Canada?
2. Will the Commission consider imposing a moratorium on the import of Canadian meat in order to protect the health of Europeans?
3. What provisions will the Commission put in place to ensure that there is no repeat of this situation? Might it renegotiate the agreements which made it possible, where necessary?

Supporter³

¹ Report DG(HEALTH)/2019-6681 – Final report of an audit carried out in Canada from 09 September 2019 to 20 September 2019 in order to evaluate the control systems in place governing the production of bovine and pig meat intended for export to the European Union.

² Council Directive 96/22/EC of 29 April 1996 concerning the prohibition on the use in stockfarming of certain substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action and of β -agonists, and repealing Directives 81/602/EEC, 88/146/EEC and 88/299/EEC (OJ L 125, 23.5.1996, p. 3).

³ This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Jean-Paul Garraud (ID)