

**Question for written answer E-005534/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Krzysztof Jurgiel (ECR)

Subject: Worrying results of DG SANTE 2019-6681 audit in Canada on quality control of beef and pork for export to EU markets

An audit by DG SANTE published on 20 May 2020 found serious shortcomings on the part of Canadian farmers and beef producers in relation to EU requirements and standards guaranteed by CETA. It finds, among other things, gaps in the system for animal location control, a lack of reliable electronic databases, and a conflict of interest in the fact that veterinary inspections are commissioned and paid for by the stakeholders themselves. In the opinion of the auditors, this makes it practically impossible to check whether specific batches of meat are free of, for example, growth hormones.

While I appreciate the attitude of the Canadian local authorities, which have offered full cooperation and committed themselves to improving procedures without delay, I would nevertheless like to ask:

1. Have health checks at EU borders shown an increase in the use of prohibited livestock growth stimulators in consignments of meat from third countries over the past year?
2. In view of the irregularities that were detected, has the Commission expanded – or does it plan to expand – the scope of quality controls on batches of beef and pork imported into EU markets?