

**Question for written answer E-000193/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Krzysztof Jurgiel (ECR)**

**Subject:** Likelihood of unlawful practices and discrimination by officials of Bulgarian Food Safety Agency (BFSA) against Polish poultry meat

In November 2021, efforts by the anti-corruption committee of the Bulgarian Parliament revealed unlawful practices carried out by the head of the BFSA between 2019-2021. These involved the adoption of an unlawful regulation which prevented Polish poultry meat from entering the market until it was tested for Salmonella, as well as ambiguous procedures for this testing, which was often carried out by private laboratories despite access to a perfectly-developed in-house testing facility.

In 2020, Bulgarian veterinary services reported 32 cases of salmonella in Polish poultry meat to the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF). In 2021, only five cases were reported (last reported in April 2021, when the anti-corruption committee was established).

As the former Minister for Agriculture, I am aware of the importance of the food safety control system, including an adequate system for reporting food safety issues. As this situation could affect the credibility of EU food safety organisations and disturb the single market, I would like to ask the following:

1. Is the Commission aware of the procedure that took place at the BFSA?
2. Does the Commission plan to carry out, or has it already carried out, any inspections of the BFSA with regard to these allegations of possible unlawful processes disrupting the single market?
3. Are there any EU procedures in place to assess BFSA activity in order to establish which RASFF reports were justified by facts and which could have been influenced by corruption or protectionism?