

**Question for written answer E-000377/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Principle of regionalisation in EU meat exports to China with regard to African swine fever

A case of African swine fever (ASF) has recently been detected in the north-west of Italy. Given the fast spread of ASF and the failure to control the boar population, it is likely that the virus will soon reach Spain.

The Spanish pork sector is a largely export-oriented one (over 50% of the meat is sold in non-EU countries), with China being one of the main destinations. China does not respect the principle of regionalisation agreed in the WTO, given that when an outbreak of ASF is detected in one region, the Chinese stop imports from the entire country, even if other regions are not affected by the virus.

In light of the above:

1. The Commission is preparing a complaint to the WTO against China's import ban on EU products associated with Lithuania. Will the Commission take this opportunity to call for China to respect the principle of regionalisation?
2. In December 2021, France made a bilateral agreement with China recognising the principle of regionalisation. Is the Commission considering the possibility of negotiating the same kind of agreement at EU level?