Question for written answer E-001334/2023 to the Commission

Rule 138

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Subject: Measures in light of the high number of health alerts relating to fruit and vegetable imports from Türkiye and Egypt

According to information provided by the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF), in the three-year period 2020-2022, 1 189 health alerts were declared for fruit and vegetables from Türkiye and Egypt for the presence of pesticides not authorised in the Union or for exceeding the authorised maximum residue limits.

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1900 was amended in 2021 and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793 in 2022 in order to increase the physical and identity checks for certain products entering the Union from Türkiye while Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/913 was published in relation to Egypt. Yet, the number of health alerts notified by RASFF remains alarmingly high, posing a risk to the health of European consumers.

In view of the above:

- 1. What is the Commission's view regarding the high number of health alerts relating to imports of fruit and vegetables from Egypt and Türkiye?
- 2. Does it intend to increase the percentage of fruit from both countries to be checked in order to prevent the entry into the EU of produce with unauthorised pesticides or high levels of pesticides?
- 3. How will it effectively ensure that such fruit and vegetables do not reach the European consumer?

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