

**Question for written answer E-002396/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Harmonising food safety standards

Recently, the European Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) issued a health alert in relation to the detection of harmful substances in a batch of watermelons from Morocco during border checks. These watermelons were found to contain a high level of methomyl¹, an unauthorised pesticide, with the residues of this insecticide measuring at levels well above the limits permitted in the European market. Specifically, a level of 0.38+/-0.19 mg/kg-ppm² was detected, while the established maximum residue limit (MRL) is 0.015 mg/kg-ppm.

I would therefore like to ask:

1. What measures does the Commission plan to take to guarantee the safety of imported food and to prevent the presence of unauthorised substances in the future?
2. What measures is the Commission taking to ensure consistency and uniform compliance with food safety standards both for European products and for products imported from countries outside the European Union?

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¹ <https://echa.europa.eu/substance-information/-/substanceinfo/100.037.089>

² <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/rasff-window/screen/notification/622572>