

**Question for written answer E-003428/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Emmanuel Maurel** (The Left)

Subject: Large quantities of fraudulent food and pesticides circulating in the internal market

The findings of Operation Opson XII, carried out jointly by the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the Commission between December 2022 and April 2023, reveal that 8 000 tonnes of fraudulent food products were seized, six criminal networks were disrupted and 143 arrest warrants were issued during 400 inspections.

Europol highlighted a trend emerging 'on an unprecedented scale' of expired, unsold products, including spoiled meat and fish, being recycled and relabelled for sale instead of being destroyed.

Investigations also show the emergence of massive trafficking in counterfeit pesticides using banned substances, partly centred around Asia. According to Europol, these pesticides 'can be extremely dangerous for the environment and human health'.

However, detailed data from the surveys has not been provided. In the interests of transparency, public information and consumer health protection, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. What is the precise geographic origin of the pesticides in question and of their components?
2. What is the exact nature and commercial destination of the spoiled food that was seized?

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