

**Question for written answer E-000478/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)

Subject: Protecting the quality of feta and boosting demand

Many Greek livestock farmers complain that the Artemis II application is not working, as many dairy companies are failing to correctly declare all information relating to milk proportions, the quantity of dairy products and by-products produced, and raw materials used.

In addition, the competent state mechanisms are not carrying out effective controls.

Livestock farmers complain that there are milk processing plants that use large quantities of (often imported) cow's milk to produce feta cheese, instead of making it exclusively from Greek sheep and goat milk (composed of at least 70% sheep's milk) as is required by the relevant standards.

Sadly, there have been complaints about almost all Greek sheep and goat milk being exported, meaning that there are not sufficient quantities to produce feta. Thus, feta that has undergone a high degree of adulteration and does not fulfil the criteria established by law is available on the market, leading to:

- consumers being misled and a drop in quality of this superior Greek PDO product;
- losses being incurred by Greek farmers, milk producers and producers of dairy products.

Livestock farmers are calling for proper checks to be carried out by the competent state authorities and mechanisms.

In view of this, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Are there any means available for auditing the control systems of the competent state authorities, whose responsibility it is to perform quality controls in the Greek cheesemaking sector?
2. Are there untapped tools available to enable the effective vertical integration of production and to nurture partnerships based on the 'Farm to Fork' strategy in the Greek cheesemaking sector, with a view to reducing exports of Greek raw materials and improving the quality of the end product?
3. Are there any untapped tools for promoting feta in restaurants worldwide?

Submitted:13.2.2024