Question for written answer E-000716/2024 to the Commission

Rule 138

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Subject: Health warning concerning the presence of Hepatitis A in strawberries from Morocco

On 4 March 2024, the RASFF portal warned that worrying levels of hepatitis A had been detected at the point of entry into Spain in strawberries about to be imported into the European Union. Hepatitis A is usually found in food that has been irrigated with water contaminated with faeces.

This case, in addition to posing a risk to food safety and health in Spain and the European Union, is evidence of a further violation of the health rules laid down in the agreements between the EU and Morocco.

In view of the above:

- 1. What steps will the Commission take to prevent this from happening with other products and spreading across the internal market?
- 2. Does it consider that the Spanish Government should strengthen controls so that such products do not enter the internal market?

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