

Question for written answer E-000725/2024
to the Commission
Rule 138
Tilly Metz (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Hygiene issues in the Polish poultry sector

The Polish poultry slaughtering, poultry meat and poultry products industry was audited by the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (SANTE), in 2010, 2014¹ and 2019². These audits found problems with hygiene, contamination and failure to take adequate action when products were found to be contaminated with salmonella.

Assurances were given by the Polish competent authority, but the 2019 audit report states:

'However, these actions are not effective in preventing the re-introduction of Salmonella in the poultry meat processing chain which is evidenced by the continuously high number of RASFF notifications linked to this commodity'.

In 2022 the situation worsened, with 194 Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) notifications in the Polish poultry sector, mostly linked to salmonella.

A British television programme³ and the Austrian organisation AGES⁴ give details of high levels of human illness and fatalities caused by Polish raw breaded chicken products in Britain and chicken kebabs in Austria.

1. Is the Commission aware of the worrying hygiene situation concerning Polish poultry meat and are future audits for this sector envisaged?
2. What will the Commission do if future audits find hygiene failings, and if the number of RASFF alerts continues to rise?
3. Will the Commission take enforcement action to ensure Poland complies with EU legislation, notably Regulation 2017/625⁵?

Submitted: 7.3.2024

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit-report/details/3514>.

² <https://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit-report/details/4212>.

³ <https://www.itv.com/news/2023-06-20/uk-supermarkets-sell-antibiotic-dosed-chickens-linked-to-deadly-superbug>.

⁴ <https://kurier.at/chronik/oesterreich/toedliche-keime-im-kebab-ueber-100-faelle-in-europa-27-in-oesterreich/402558263>

⁵ Regulation 2017/625 of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, OJ L 95, 7.4.2017, p. 1.