

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3564/01  
by Jaime Valdivielso de Cué (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Food safety

In the context of imports of treated fresh fish from third countries, it appears that there are enormous variations between EU Member States in the nature of the controls operated at the border inspection posts, as regards the microbiological standards required.

As a result, EU importers are systematically choosing as their points of entry airports located in Member States where the health standards required at the border inspection posts are lower, and are then transporting the goods by land to their final destination.

At their end, consumers are thus receiving the goods in worse condition: the systematic increasing of the number of links in the logistic chain leads to a deterioration in the microbiological condition of the goods.

What measures will be taken to put an immediate end to this situation? What measures will be taken with a view to harmonising the microbiological controls operated at all border inspection points in the EU, and on the basis of what timetable?