

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2697/03  
by Francesco Fiori (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Anomalies in the customs treatment of, and health requirements applied to, imported chicken and turkey

The Commission has been informed on several occasions of anomalies in the customs and health requirements for imported chicken and turkey, in that lightly salted or processed meat avoids the imposition of Community tariff 0207, which is supposed to be applied to all frozen poultry meat.

This continuing ambiguous situation is causing substantial damage to Italian (and European) producers, who are being adversely affected by unfair trading practices, and considerable risks for consumers, who are not adequately protected against livestock rearing and health practices which fall short of European standards. This being so,

1. Would the Commission publish the results of the sanitary inspections carried out on consignments of poultry meat imported from Thailand and Brazil for the purpose of checking that it did not contain nitrofurans and that no animal flours that failed to meet Community standards had been used in those countries in the production of livestock for export to Europe?
2. Would the Commission inform Parliament of any measures taken to prevent possible abuses in connection with livestock production in those countries, or unfair trading practices by importers taking advantage of the anomalous tariffs imposed by certain European customs authorities?
3. What urgent measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure the correct and uniform application throughout the Union of the correct consolidated tariff applicable to all frozen meat imported into Europe, which is already applied in Germany?

Any delay in the application of such measures would cause further unjustifiable damage to European producers, some of whom have already suffered irreparable damage.