

WRITTEN QUESTION P-4369/07
by Niels Busk (ALDE)
to the Commission

Subject: Export of non-approved beef from Bulgaria and Romania

In late 2006, the Commission's DG SANCO decided that stocks of beef in Bulgaria and Romania should not be sold to the EU-25 or form part of processed beef products for these countries, since the origin of the meat in question could not be traced. To that end, the Commission ruled that import rights under the GATT regulations for the import of 53 000 tonnes of frozen beef for 2007/2008 could only be allocated if the beef came from firms and third countries which had been authorised to import into the EU. It later transpired that Bulgaria and Romania had approved imports totalling almost 77 000 tonnes for 2007/2008.

How is it possible for DG AGRI to approve beef whose origins DG SANCO had declared a few months earlier could not be satisfactorily traced as being imported from EU-approved firms and third countries?