

WRITTEN QUESTION P-6710/08
by Ioannis Gklavakis (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Ban on imports from China of soya contaminated with melamine

In reply to Written Question P-5307/08, the Commission indicates that melamine contamination was found in protein-rich feed ingredients from China in 2007. In May, June and July 2007 eight RASFF (rapid alert system for food and feed) notifications concerned such a presence. Following this, the Chinese authorities introduced pre-export control measures. Current results indicate that the problem has been addressed properly.

According to information provided by the Member States through the RASFF, high melamine levels were also detected in products containing soya which were imported from China. Given that soya is used in animal feed:

1. Can the Commission provide an analytical list showing the quantities of soya products originating in China imported into the EU from 2004 onwards?
2. Were the products containing contaminated soya intended for human consumption or as an animal feed ingredient?
3. Does the Commission have statistical information from 2004 onwards concerning the quantities of impounded soya products originating from China (category of product, quantities and country in which they were impounded in each case)?
4. Does it intend to ban imports of soya products originating in China, in accordance with Commission Decision 2008/798/EC¹?

¹ OJ L 273, 15.10.2008, p. 18.