

**Question for written answer P-001901/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Alain Cadec (PPE)

Subject: Veterinary checks on imported chondroitin sulphate from China

Animal products listed in Annex I of Decision 2007/275/EC must be subject to veterinary checks prior to any customs declaration formalities for import into the EU.

It appears that difficulties are arising regarding imports of chondroitin from China. This molecule, which is used to relieve and cure joint diseases, is produced from fish cartilage and crustacean shells and is therefore 100% of animal origin. Under European rules, importing companies are required to provide information regarding the requisite formalities and obtain a health certificate.

However, the Chinese authorities do not issue producers with certification or documentation to the effect that chondroitin is an authorised food product. As a result, a consignment of chondroitin sulphate intended for a French company was turned back, since it was unable to produce the requisite certification, while competing European companies were at the same time importing this product in the United Kingdom and Germany.

Is the Commission aware of any inconsistencies in European legislation regarding this product? If so, what formalities should be completed by the French company referred to above?

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