

**Question for written answer E-001122/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Jordi Cañas (Renew)

Subject: High levels of pesticides detected in melons from Morocco

On 5 April 2024, Spain published a notification on the European Union Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) stating that chlorpyrifos (a pesticide) residue exceeding the maximum residue limit (MRL) had been detected in a shipment of melons from Morocco. The risk posed by the residue was classified as potentially serious because, if ingested, the pesticide can have seriously affect the nervous system and the consequences are potentially lethal.¹

It is the second time in less than a month that fruit from Morocco has been seized at the border to stop products that are not in compliance with EU health rules from entering: first it was strawberries infected with hepatitis A and now it is melons with pesticide levels exceeding the MRL.

In the light of this state of affairs:

What sanctions will the Commission impose on Morocco for repeatedly sending shipments of foodstuffs that break EU plant health rules?

Submitted: 16.4.2024

¹ <https://www.lavanguardia.com/comer/al-dia/20240408/9590190/alerta-melones-marruecos-alto-contenido-residuos-pesticidas.html>