



Michèle RIVASI

Membre du Parlement européen
Groupe des VERTS/ALE

Dear Madame Chair,

I hereby object to COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/6 as regards feed and food subjected to special conditions governing the import of feed and food originating in or consigned from Japan following the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power station.

The proposal modifies Annex II of Regulation (EU) 2016/6 which lists food and feed for which sampling and analysis regarding the presence of caesium-134 and caesium 137 are required before export to the Union.

Since 1 April 2012, the limits in force in Japan and in Europe have not been revised downwards. Exceedances of the limits concern less than 1% of the controlled foodstuffs, but their downward revision should be imposed, with a priority for the younger people (milk and dedicated food).

The Japanese Prefectures which are covered by Annex II (Fukushima, Miyagi, Akita, Yamagata, Nagano, Gunma, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Chiba, Iwate, Yamanashi, Shizuoka and Niigata) are all being exposed to the radioactive fallouts from the nuclear accident that occurred in 2011 and the proposal is based on occurrence data provided by the Japanese authorities for 2014, 2015 and 2016.

In particular, I object to the proposal to lift the requirement of sampling and analysis before export to the Union for rice and products derived thereof originating in the prefecture of Fukushima. Information that we have received from French NGOs working on radiation monitoring, and that have been active in the aftermath of Fukushima, show that this is not advisable.

Fukushima rice for domestic consumption continues to be monitored by Japanese authorities for radiation levels. In addition, as evacuation orders have recently been lifted, it is likely that the cultivation of rice will resume in contaminated paddies. Even if the quantities of rice imported from Japan are small, in light of these facts, we believe that it is safer to maintain a control certificate for these imports.

I believe that stopping the sampling and analysis of rice products from Fukushima as well as wild plants and mushrooms will lead to a lowering of the level of protection of human health and therefore consider that the Commission is exceeding its implementing powers.

I strongly recommend that the project should be accompanied by a summary of the control system implemented by the Japanese authorities, justifying its relevance and effectiveness, giving an up-to-date picture of the radiological situation and the developments observed since 2011. The decisions are based exclusively on the data presented by the Japanese authorities. It is imperative to know the content of this information and to be able to await its validity (which implies that the Commission has carried out a critical analysis of the surveillance plan in force in Japan). There is a question of the access of European citizens to the overall results of supervision. When searching for information in the RASFF database, we can find only one statement concerning the control of food imported from Japan.

I thus observe various problems of lack of transparency, non-adapted standards, contaminated areas benefiting from prohibition, poor frequency of EU entry checks and weak information to the public and the Commission.

I am at your disposal to give you further information.

Due to the short timeframe I am currently the sole MEP objecting, however I expect that there will be interest from other ENVI colleagues in jointly tabling a motion for resolution on this issue as a next step.

Yours sincerely,

Best regards,

Michèle Rivasi MEP, Greens/EFA group

ASP 06E204, Wiertz street, n°60
1047 Brussels
Tel.: +32 2 28 -45397

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michèle Rivasi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'M' and 'R'.