

**Question for written answer E-010713/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lorenzo Fontana (NI)

Subject: Energy drinks and children

In the United States there is growing discussion of the problems associated with energy drinks, especially when children consume them.

Leading medical professionals claim that children under the age of six who consume this type of beverage are at risk. They also warn against consumption by adults with neurological or heart problems.

The public have little information about beverages of this type, and often view them as ordinary drinks. Catanzaro University, for example, has conducted a study of this misunderstanding, based on 870 high school students in Calabria. It found only 13 percent of the young people were aware of the high caffeine content of these products. Many thought they were just like an orangeade or hydration drink, of the type drunk after practising sports.

1. As protection of health, especially of children, is an EU priority, have any campaigns been run to raise awareness of this subject?
2. Are there any plans to carry out medical research into this type of food, because of their health consequences for children?