

**Question for written answer E-002007/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Ban on bisphenol A in France

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) issued its opinion on bisphenol A (BPA) on 21 January 2015. It concluded that, 'at current exposure levels', this molecule 'poses no health risk to consumers of any age group'.

The French agency ANSES (Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail), on the other hand, has stated that BPA is not harmless. On the basis of this opinion, France decided to ban BPA in the packaging of food produced in and imported into its territory as from 1 January 2015.

The scientific press reports that the ANSES opinion is backed by hundreds of studies suggesting that exposure to low levels of BPA can disrupt the development of the mammary gland, the brain, the prostate and the testicles, as well as the metabolism (BPA has been linked to obesity) and the reproductive system. EFSA, meanwhile, has based its decision on a study published in 2008 and financed by the chemical industry. Around 40 experts disputed this study in the March 2009 edition of the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives*.

What is the Commission's assessment, and what precautionary measures will it take to guarantee public health and food safety?