

**Question for written answer E-005822/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Critical issues relating to the use of palm oil

Various studies have shown that the use of palm oil (PO) increases the risk of cardiovascular and ischemic heart diseases (<http://www.globalizationandhealth.com/content/7/1/45>; <http://www.cspinet.org/palm/PalmOilReport.pdf>) and several countries, including Belgium, have issued directives advising a limited consumption thereof (Publication du Conseil Supérieur de la Santé No 8464 [Supreme Council of Health Publication No 8464]).

This substance is present in numerous staple food products, including various baby foods. The production of palm oil is also linked to the issue of 'land grabbing' – the large-scale acquisition of land in developing countries, often to the detriment of local communities – and is the primary cause of deforestation in wooded areas, which leads to the devastation of natural habitats.

Does the Commission consider it necessary to provide a study to verify the effects of palm oil on human health?

Does it believe that, for preventive purposes, the use thereof should be limited in baby products at least?

Does it intend to investigate potential violations of the rights of local communities and any other improper practices linked to the cultivation of palm oil?