

**Question for written answer E-009492/2015
to the Council**

Rule 130

Lorenzo Fontana (NI)

Subject: Authorisation of 19 genetically modified (GM) foods

Bearing in mind that the vote on the European Parliament's report on TTIP has been suspended and that public opinion has taken a strong stand against the agreement as it is worded at present, it has come to our knowledge that, without informing Parliament or the Council, in April 2015 the Commission approved 19 new types of GMOs for EU territory, 17 of which are intended for human food and animal feed, while two are species of carnations. 11 of these have been patented by the US company Monsanto and eight by Dupont, another US company, and by German groups BASF and Bayer.

Member States can now prohibit individual GMOs on their territory but the burden of proof (of danger to health and the environment) for the GMO falls on the Member State, in breach of the precautionary principle that should govern issues relating to health and the environment. This will totally undermine EU citizens' right to food safety.

Can the Council say, in the light of the Commission's change of approach following the adoption of Directive (EU) 2015/412, how it will react, through the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCFCAH), to the Commission's decisions to authorise these products?