

**Question for written answer E-014004/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Jana Žitňanská (ECR)

Subject: Use of stevia in food products

In Regulation (EU) No 1131/2011 of 11 November 2011 amending Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008, the Commission authorises the use of steviol glycosides in certain food products. Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 specifies the products in which stevia can be used.

A Slovak gingerbread manufacturer has been forbidden by the Slovak authorities from using the sweetener in their products on the grounds that the Commission regulation does not permit its use in preserved baked goods. Stevia is allegedly being used in the manufacture of preserved croissants in France, however. Does France have some kind of exception, or have the Slovak authorities misinterpreted the regulation?

If the current rules do not permit the use of stevia in the manufacture of preserved baked goods, will the Commission consider amending the annex so that a wider range of goods can be made available to people with diabetes?