

**Question for written answer E-000382/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Olga Sehnalová (S&D)

Subject: Conclusions of the report on trans fats in foods

In its report of 3 December 2015 on the presence of trans fatty acids (TFA) in foods (COM(2015)619), the Commission notes that there is a need to regulate at EU level the content of industrially produced TFA. A number of conclusions lead it to take that view:

- heart disease is the leading cause of death in the EU and a high intake of TFA seriously increases the risk for heart disease;
- food products with high industrial TFA content are available on the market;
- there are public health gains to be reaped;
- four Member States have already introduced national measures and several others intend to do so if there is no decision at EU level – there is therefore a risk of further fragmentation of the market.

The assessment suggests that a legal limit for industrial TFA content would be the most effective measure in terms of public health, consumer protection and compatibility with the internal market. Nevertheless, the Commission argues the need to 'continue and expedite work in this area' and cites its Better Regulation principles, among other things.

In 2011, Regulation No 1169/2011 called on the Commission to draw up an assessment and to accompany this report with a legislative proposal, 'if necessary'. The Commission cites the need for close consultation and review of the available scientific knowledge as the reasons for its delay in submitting this report.

How are the urgency of the above-mentioned conclusions and, at the same time, yet further delay in submitting the legislative proposal compatible with the principles of Better Regulation?

What time frame does the Commission envisage for the more comprehensive work in this area that it has announced and what further analyses does it intend to carry out before presenting a legislative proposal?