

Question for written answer E-003718/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Initiatives against food waste

Each year in the European Union alone we throw away about 100 million tonnes of food. Most of this food waste is generated in households. To try and remedy this situation, 2014 was declared the European Year against Food Waste.

In this context, I would like to ask the Commission the following questions:

1. What initiatives is the Commission planning in order to raise awareness of this problem in private households? Will these initiatives be aimed only at improving understanding of the differences between the 'use by' and 'best before' labelling on foods, or is the Commission also planning other types of initiative?
2. On its website the Commission says that one of the options envisaged is the extension of Annex X to Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011, which contains a list of foodstuffs which are exempt from the obligation to indicate a date of minimum durability ('best before' date). Has the Commission already started work on extending this list? Approximately when will such an amendment of the annex to the regulation be published?
3. Although European Union law does not prohibit the sale of safe foods after expiry of their date of minimum durability, some countries, such as the Slovak Republic, do ban such foods from being placed on the market, on pain of financial penalties (Section 6(5d)) of Act No. 152/1995 Coll.). This contributes to food waste and exacerbates the public's failure to understand the distinctions used in food labelling. Is the Commission taking specific action to encourage these countries to amend their legislation?