

**Question for written answer E-007236/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Ethoxyquin and public health

Initially developed as a pesticide by Monsanto in the 1950s, ethoxyquin is now used as an antioxidant additive to food. In the EU, the use of ethoxyquin is only authorised for animal feed and is subject to certain limits with terrestrial species.

The problem came to light again when significant amounts of this substance and one of its metabolites were found in batches of fish (salmon) raised in aquaculture.

Given that no specific limits for aquatic species are provided for in EU legislation, the EFSA acknowledges that there is insufficient data to assess the impact of ethoxyquin and its metabolites on human health.

What is the Commission's view on this scenario? Is it planning on including specific limits for the use of this substance with aquatic species in Regulation 396/2005?

Will it conduct new studies to further assess the impact of ethoxyquin on consumer health? With a view to consumer protection, is it considering putting an end to the use of ethoxycin in animal feed, particularly in the area of fish farming?