

**Question for written answer E-000855/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Francesc Gambús (PPE)

Subject: Consumption of *Pangasius hypophthalmus*

Pangasius hypophthalmus, better known as panga, is a large white fish whose popularity has been growing in Spain throughout the financial crisis owing to its low cost. There is, however, much debate about whether it should be included in school meals, as it has little nutritional value. Recent information has revealed that panga farming, which largely takes place in Vietnam and Thailand, has serious implications for the environment. As a result, the retailer Carrefour has decided to stop selling panga in Belgium, France and Spain, as 'there is no way to control the impact that these fish farms have on the environment'. Similarly, a number of organisations have voiced concerns over the suspected health risks associated with eating panga, as it is common practice for fish to be farmed using antibiotics and polyphosphates in an effort to increase weight and improve glazing.

1. Within its competences, what controls has the Commission put in place to guarantee the safety of the panga consumed in the EU?
2. What is its view of the environmental implications of panga farming in Vietnam and Thailand?
3. On the basis of the data available to the Commission, would it say that panga is a good choice in terms of nutrition for inclusion in European school meals?