

**Question for written answer E-007000/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Truffle oil

In order to simulate the aroma of truffles, the cheaper versions of truffle oil use the substance 2,4-dithiapentane. This substance is entirely synthetic and according to the ECHA is not risk-free. It is said to cause respiratory problems and irritation to the skin and eyes. In addition, it is also highly inflammable. The substance is also a suspected mutagen.

Some cheap oils barely contain any trace of genuine truffles, but more expensive variants of the oil too contain chemical substances and are thus not produced from grated truffles. It seems that producers of truffle oil try to earn money by misusing the image of fresh truffles.

Is the Commission aware of these practices?

What tools does the Commission have to combat these practices, to protect consumers and to point out to producers that this constitutes unfair competition?