Question for written answer E-002393/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (EFDD)

Subject: Issues arising from the large-scale use of triploid oysters

Triploid oysters, hybrids that are the product of crossing classic diploid females with laboratory-grown tetraploids, first appeared in the US in the 1980s and in France in the 2000s. They remain sterile in natural environments and therefore do not turn milky in summer, which improves sales. As they do not expend energy reproducing, these oysters grow faster and are ready for sale in two years, rather than three. However, they have a higher adult mortality rate, perhaps due to their rapid growth or specific immunodeficiencies. A further problem is that, if laboratory-grown tetraploid males found their way into natural environments, they would produce scores of triploids which could not reproduce. As the water in hatcheries is treated, there are also questions surrounding the effects on the ecosystem when these oysters are placed in natural environments.

1. Can the Commission provide any information on the risks mentioned above?

2. Does the Commission think it would be appropriate to create a certification label to protect natural, non-laboratory oysters?