

**Question for written answer E-004224/2018**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)**

Subject: Safety of food and feed

The agri-food industry is the second largest sector in the EU, employing more than 48 million people across the whole process from primary production to retail and catering.

The EU General Food Law was adopted in 2002 following an outbreak of BSE, also known as 'mad cow disease'. It sets out the general principles and requirements of food law and establishes the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). At the time, the Law was a response to the risk of spread of BSE. In the 15 or so years since then, however, a great number of serious threats, including diseases connected with the production and sale of foodstuffs, have arisen nonetheless.

Notable examples are the cases in which horsemeat was found in hamburgers and lasagne in 2013, contaminated eggs reached the markets of 45 countries, and 12 million boxes of contaminated baby milk had to be recalled. It is clear, therefore, that the whole food chain needs to be made safer if consumer confidence in products is to be improved. The number of serious cases of fraud should be drastically reduced, inter alia, by improving traceability and health protection legislation. It is equally important that monitoring and enforcement of the legislation on agri-food products intended for official trade networks and catering should be efficient and of high quality.

How is the Commission planning to improve the traceability of producers, raw materials and products across the whole food chain in the European Union?