

Question for written answer E-004834/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Production and sale of food products with the name 'peanut butter' in all EU Member States

Access to full information on a product is one of consumers' most important rights. It is worth recognising, therefore, the efforts the EU has taken to strengthen those rights.

Unfortunately, not all of its rules appear to be sufficiently justified. Consumers are confused that, in certain Member States, products labelled 'peanut butter' are disappearing from shelves. Peanut butter has strictly defined characteristics, ingredients and production methods, which means it cannot be mistaken for a dairy product. It has existed for decades across the world with its well-known and clearly recognisable name. 'Peanut butter' is its real name, and is not 'borrowed' or designed to mislead consumers.

Forcing some producers to find another name for peanut butter is a particularly doubtful move, given that not only does it not apply to products imported from outside the EU, but some EU Member States have managed to remain exempt from the excessively strict rules! This decision seems entirely at odds with the idea of a single market, smacks of unfair competition, and – worst of all – confuses consumers.

What action will the Commission take to make it possible for food products to be produced and sold with the proper name, 'peanut butter', in all EU Member States?