

**Question for written answer E-000187/2019
to the Commission
Rule 130
Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)**

Subject: Food additives as a cause of disease, notably cancer

Cancer is becoming a scourge of today's society. In some Member States, cancer mortality rates are so high that virtually no family is left untouched by death from cancer. Unfortunately, there is every indication that poor dietary habits and various food supplements and artificial additives ('enhancers') for improving the aroma, flavour, appearance and shelf-life of products are contributing to this state of affairs.

By improving a product's appearance, aroma or shelf-life, they are intended to boost appetite or desire, and hence encourage people to buy more such products. At the same time, this results in increased consumption, often well above a person's daily needs. A consequence of eating large quantities of products containing artificial additives is a high level of disease, including allergies, gastrointestinal diseases, obesity and, sadly, cancer. Furthermore, it is also extremely alarming that the people at risk are those whose consumption of additives can lead to behavioural changes.

In this connection, is the Commission planning to review the legislation on the use of artificial additives in food products, or at least review the permitted levels for the presence of such additives in food?