

**Question for written answer E-001755/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Giancarlo Scottà (ENF)

Subject: The 2011 E. coli epidemic

The 2011 E. coli epidemic in Germany and France which poisoned a large number of people remains one of the most serious cases of food poisoning that have occurred in Europe in recent times.

After an initial phase of uncertainty, the investigations identified fenugreek sprout seeds from Egypt as the source of the epidemic. However, there exist no analytical findings on the presence of the bacterium in the seeds, and it has not been possible to prove that they were already contaminated when they left Egypt.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

- 1) Over the past few years, has it carried out further investigations and research into the incident in question and does it still believe that fenugreek seeds were correctly identified as the origin of this epidemic?
- 2) Does it believe that the measures taken on the basis of the provisions adopted in 2013 regarding traceability, microbiological criteria, production facilities and certification for importation have had the desired effect?
- 3) Does it consider that these measures are proportionate to the number of notifications concerning sprouts or sprout seeds posted on the RASFF network?