

**Question for oral answer O-000105/2016
to the Council**

Rule 128

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on behalf of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Subject: Trans fats (TFAs)

Trans fatty acids are unsaturated fats found in foods obtained from ruminants and in industrially produced, partially hydrogenated vegetable oils. Consumption of industrially produced, partially hydrogenated vegetable oils has been associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease. High TFA intake is a risk factor in particular for developing coronary heart disease (more than any other nutrient on a per calorie basis) – a disease that is conservatively estimated to account for some 660 000 deaths annually in the EU, or around 14 % of overall mortality.

Article 30(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers requires the Commission 'to submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the presence of trans fats in foods and in the overall diet of the Union population. The report shall be to assess the impact of appropriate means that could enable consumers to make healthier food and overall dietary choices or that could promote the provision of healthier food options to consumers, including, among others, the provision of information on trans fats to consumers or restrictions on their use'. The Commission was invited to accompany the report with a legislative proposal 'if appropriate'. In the report published in December 2015, the Commission takes stock of the situation and considers possible options (legislative and non-legislative) to limit TFA consumption in the EU, outlining some of the possible consequences of introducing these approaches. The Commission abstained from making a legislative proposal.

Given the above, would the Council support legislative options aiming at eliminating TFAs from the EU food supply chain in the long term, either through the introduction of EU mandatory TFA content labelling or through an EU legal limit on the industrial TFA content of all food?

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Deadline for reply: 4.8.2016