

**Question for written answer P-009015/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)**

Subject: Insects as human food

Opinions in favour of the use of insects for food have been issued by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in 2013, and subsequently in France by the National Food Safety Agency (ANSES) on 12 February 2015.

The nutritional value of insects is similar to that of meat products. However, it is more economical to produce insects because only 2 kg of feed is needed to produce 1 kg of insects, while it takes 8 kg of feed to produce 1 kg of beef. The environmental impact of raising insects for human food is also lower in terms of greenhouse gas emissions. Insects would thus be an alternative solution to meeting the world's food needs.

In the EU, foods made from insects are available, though none have yet been formally authorised for marketing.

However, using insects for food goes against Europeans' eating habits.

1. Does the Commission have any plans to issue, for example via the European Food Safety Agency, a definitive opinion on using insects for human food needs?
2. Does the Commission have any plans to encourage the use of insects for food among the people of Europe?