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WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on food additives E249 and E250

Mireille D'Ornano (ENF), Edouard Ferrand (ENF), Mara Bizzotto (ENF), Matteo Salvini (ENF), Salvatore Cicu (PPE), Raffaele Fitto (ECR), Jean-François Jalkh (ENF), Sylvie Goddyn (ENF), Marie-Christine Arnautu (ENF), Philippe Loiseau (ENF)

Lapse date: 1.3.2017

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on food additives E249 and E250¹

1. Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Directive 2006/52/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 form the basis of EU legislation on food additives.
2. Potassium nitrite (E249) and sodium nitrite (E250) – ‘nitrites’ – act as preservatives and colour fixing agents in meat-based products, and as a means of preventing bacterial infections, in particular *Clostridium botulinum*.
3. Several scientific studies have confirmed the link between the combination of nitrites and amines, and colorectal and stomach cancer.
4. The International Agency for Research on Cancer, an agency of the World Health Organisation, classifies nitrites as ‘probably carcinogenic to humans’.
5. The Commission is asked to take into account the conclusions of the European Food Safety Authority and of reliable, independent scientific studies on the harmful effects of nitrites and to support research into alternatives that could replace nitrites with a view to preventing bacterial infections such as *Clostridium botulinum*.
6. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Commission.

¹ Under Rule 136(4) and (5) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, where a declaration is signed by a majority of Parliament's component Members, it is published in the minutes with the names of its signatories and forwarded to the addressees, without however binding Parliament.