

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Christel Schaldemose, Linda McAvan, Arlene McCarthy, Heide Rühle and Åsa Westlund

on azo food colours and Quinoline Yellow, which are hazardous to human health

Lapse date: 24.7.2008

Written declaration on azo food colours and Quinoline Yellow, which are hazardous to human health

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the study conducted by the European Food Safety Authority on the implications of azo food colours and Quinoline Yellow on human health,
 - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas a study by Southampton University has shown that the food colours Tartrazine (E102), Quinoline Yellow (E104), Sunset Yellow FCF (E110), Carmoisine (E122), Ponceau 4R (E124), and Allura Red AC (E129) are hazardous to children's health, as they may cause hyperactivity and increase the risk of learning disabilities,
- B. whereas food colours are added to food and drinks for cosmetic reasons,
1. Is concerned that the absence of a precautionary principle regarding azo food colours and Quinoline Yellow constitute an unnecessary health risk to citizens;
 2. Welcomes the initiative taken by European manufacturers in Denmark, Sweden, and the United Kingdom to voluntarily phase out azo food colours;
 3. Calls on the Commission and Council to prohibit E102, E104, E110, E122, E124, and E129 to ensure that European health policy focuses on the prevention of disease, especially for children;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council and the Commission.