

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1591/03  
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to the Commission

Subject: Toys in foodstuffs

In view of the fatal accidents in which children have died of asphyxia in the last few years, some of the more conscientious manufacturers have voluntarily withdrawn potentially dangerous products from the market:

- Nestlé withdrew its 'Magic Ball' (a chocolate-covered plastic ball containing a figurine of a Disney character) because toys inside food products are considered extremely dangerous;
- in Denmark and the United Kingdom a yoghurt containing a toy (Onken) was also voluntarily withdrawn from the market;
- in Finland a chocolate egg containing a novelty toy manufactured in Austria was withdrawn from the market.

Meanwhile, unscrupulous manufacturers continue to advertise and sell their food products under the pretext of offering a toy (which is of course just another marketing gimmick to promote the food product), which can cause fatal accidents and irreparable damage to the lives of families.

What specific action will the Commission take with a view to protecting European consumers?