

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0416/05

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to the Commission

Subject: Free gifts offered with food products

Children are naturally vulnerable and are unaware of the dangers around them: they cannot distinguish between harmless and harmful products. The safety of products intended for children therefore needs to be a priority for EU policy in this field.

Free gifts are frequently offered with food products (e.g. miniature toys inside chocolate eggs, crisp packets, breakfast cereals, snacks, etc). Accidents have occurred with these products, as is shown in an EP study of 2003. In the US, such products are banned on safety grounds.

What measures will the Commission take with a view to improving the EU's standards in the area of child safety, thus preventing further accidents with children choking on, or, in the worst cases, being suffocated by, miniature toys sold with food products?