

**Question for written answer E-010792/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Health risks linked to bisphenol A and food contact inks

Recent studies, on bisphenol A and on food contact inks used in the manufacture of food packagings, show that these products present major public health risks.

Firstly, the French agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety (ANSES) has published two reports showing the health risks linked to multiple use of bisphenol A in the food sector, particularly for pregnant women and babies. Following the publication of these two reports, the French Parliament decided to ban the use of bisphenol A in food containers from 2014 (and from as early as 2013 for food containers intended for children under 3 months).

Secondly, the French consumer association 'UFC-Que choisir' has disclosed worrying results from tests it has carried out on the migration of food contact inks from cardboard packagings into foods that are in direct contact with them (pasta, rice, couscous, etc.).

1. What conclusions does the Commission draw from the ANSES study?
2. Is the Commission aware of European studies – completed or under way – on the possible toxic effects of food contact inks in food packagings?
3. How does the Commission intend to ensure both a high level of protection for all European consumers and the unity of the single market for producers? Given that it has the monopoly on legislative initiative, is it considering putting forward new measures to reduce the risks linked to bisphenol A (apart from the question of babies' bottles) and inks used in food packagings?