

**Question for written answer E-001604/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Dan Jørgensen (S&D)

Subject: Authorisation for sale and breeding of GM salmon in the EU

In December 2012 the American Food and Drug Administration approved a genetically modified (gene-spliced) salmon, which grows twice as fast as normal salmon, as being safe for the environment and for human health¹.

In all probability this assessment means that the genetically modified salmon will be authorised for breeding and sale in the USA in the very near future, in spite of the fact that various environment NGOs have warned against giving such approval. This is partly because the GM salmon, if it escapes into the wild, could threaten the survival of other salmon species owing to its size.

Furthermore, if the breeding of GM salmon spreads to other countries and regions with less stringent controls than the USA, the risk of the salmon escaping into natural environments will increase.

Can the Commission guarantee that this GM salmon will not obtain authorisation for sale and breeding in the EU in future on the grounds of the environmental risks associated with its escape?

How will the Commission endeavour to ensure that breeding of this GM salmon does not spread from the USA to other countries and regions?

Can the Commission state which EU directives and regulations – if any – would govern the import of this GM salmon, and can the Commission guarantee that these rules would require the salmon to be labelled so that consumers know that it is genetically modified?

¹ <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/22/business/gene-altered-fish-moves-closer-to-federal-approval.html>