

**Question for written answer E-007690/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Edite Estrela (S&D)

Subject: Reduction in food safety checks as a result of the crisis

The aim of the EU's food safety policy is to protect the health and interests of consumers by establishing and applying monitoring standards for hygiene in food products, animal health and wellbeing, plant health and prevention of contamination by external substances, as well as rules to ensure proper labelling.

Recent news reports indicate that as a result of the crisis and the attendant austerity measures, some Member States have not been carrying out all the food safety checks required under Community law.

Is the Commission aware of this situation and, if so, what steps does it intend to take?