

**Question for written answer E-008465/2013  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Liam Aylward (ALDE)**

Subject: Combating food fraud in the EU

The horse meat scandal greatly affected the European food sector this year. According to widespread inspections carried out, beef samples, on average, contained 4.6% horsemeat. The horsemeat scandal comes under the heading 'Food Fraud', which is a very uncertain and obscure term in EU law.

In some instances, food products are mixed with synthetic cheaper materials, which may be dangerous, or on other occasions false labels are affixed to cheap synthetic products purporting to be luxury goods. An example of this is the adding of polyphosphate to a food product to increase its weight.

Following the horsemeat scandal, questions have been raised about the standard of European food products. The agri-food sector, which is worth 750 billion euro annually, is the second biggest industry in Europe. Scandals such as the horsemeat saga damage the perception of other countries regarding European food products being of high quality.

In that respect, what has the Commission done to provide a correct and functional definition of food fraud in the light of such fraud not being covered by the food safety framework, Regulation (EC) 178/2002?