

**Question for written answer E-003190/2014
to the Commission
Rule 117
Rareș-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)**

Subject: Arsenic in cereal bars

Several studies, including an analysis published in the specialist journal 'Environmental Health Perspectives', have shown that cereal bars that are to be found on the European market contain a high level of arsenic.

Specifically, these products contain inorganic arsenic – the most dangerous form. This substance is present in the groundwater. Rice needs a large amount of water to grow, which explains the presence of arsenic in rice and its derivatives. In the case of cereal bars, it is highly probable that the contamination occurred through the addition of brown rice syrup, a natural sweetener.

In the long term, the consumption of foods containing inorganic arsenic is linked to problems such as skin lesions, cardiovascular disease and some types of cancer, as has been confirmed by the World Health Organisation.

Is the Commission planning to carry out similar studies?