

**Question for written answer E-012875/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Gilles Pargneaux (S&D)

Subject: Campylobacter, peroxyacetic acid and the TTIP

During an exchange of views held within Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety's on 15 September 2015, the Commission suggested that peroxyacetic acid (PAA) should be used to decontaminate poultry carcasses as part of efforts to combat the bacterium *Campylobacter*. PAA is an extremely powerful oxidising agent that is used, in particular, in the pharmaceutical industry and in medical applications.

Despite being an irritant that can corrode steel and other metals, it has been authorised for use by the agri-food industry in the USA as a poultry meat disinfectant. The US is now pushing, during the negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), for this biocide to be authorised in Europe. On 26 March 2014 the EFSA delivered a favourable opinion, but expressed reservations about PAA's impact on surface water and its possible contribution to the development of resistant bacteria.

On the basis of the EFSA opinion, does the Commission intend to authorise the use of PAA as a means of decontaminating chicken carcasses?

When does it expect to take a decision on the matter?

Is it normal practice for it to recommend the use of a product before it has been authorised?

Is there any evidence to support the assertion that European food safety rules – in particular the ban on antimicrobial rinses – are already being relaxed even though the TTIP has not yet been concluded and ratified?