

**Question for written answer E-000030/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Safe use of aloe species

Hydroxyanthracene derivatives, substances found in several plants and vegetables, were identified as potential genotoxic and carcinogenic substances in a recent European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) opinion¹. The opinion seems to present, *inter alia*, a number of uncertainties, including the fact that the assessment did not take into account the characteristics of such natural substances and was conducted on the basis of studies on synthetic compounds that are not found in nature and in preparations that had not been classified either chemically or botanically. It appears that, on the basis of the opinion, the Commission is to propose a general ban on all aloe food supplements, even if those products have been on the market for decades and have had no adverse events registered so far.

1. Did the Commission take into account the fact that there are hundreds of aloe species, with at least 25 identified as medicinal plants that are composed of different substances, depending on the species?
2. Can it estimate the economic loss for EU aloe growers if a ban is to be imposed?
3. Is it considering alternative assessment measures that take into account the scientific uncertainties and the long history of safe use?

¹ Younes, M. et al (2018 'Safety of hydroxyanthracene derivatives for use in food' EFSA Journal 2018 16(1):5090