

**Question for written answer E-000157/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Use by dates and food waste

Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 defines the 'date of minimum durability' (the date until which the food retains its specific properties) and the 'use by' date, which is only compulsory for highly perishable foods. However, the meaning of various dates on products is unclear. The date of manufacture is needed in order to know how old a product is, but consumers are misled by dates that indicate that a product can no longer be consumed once the date has passed.

In February 2018, a study conducted for the Commission estimated that, of the 88 million tonnes of food wasted annually, more than 10% is wasted as a result of the dates written on food products. The fight against food waste and promoting the circular economy are among the EU's priorities. It is therefore essential to harmonise practices and make labels clear so that EU citizens can use food sustainably and reduce their food waste.

How is the Commission going to improve 'use by' labelling in order to drastically reduce food waste in the EU?

Will it revise Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 so that labelling the date of minimum durability will not be compulsory for dry products that do not contain meat or dairy?