Phenylketonuria (PKU) is a metabolic condition which means that the liver cannot break down the amino acid, phenylalanine. This is because the body cannot create the requisite enzyme to break it down. If it is not broken down, this substance is poisonous to the body. It can also hinder the development of the brain, resulting in low IQ and impaired executive functioning.

Treatment of this condition usually consists of a diet with highly restricted intake of protein.

While clear EU regulations are in place for, inter alia, gluten, allergens, lactose and weight control foods, there are no such rules for protein content. In fact, food labelling on protein is often misleading. Furthermore, the EU is the world’s largest multi-nation trading community. There are many US food products on the market, yet there appears to be no harmonisation of rules on protein labelling.

Will the Commission consider ensuring that the proper labelling of protein in foodstuffs is applied, for the benefit of people affected by PKU?

Will it address the issue of non-EU foods complying with EU rules on protein labelling?