

Question for written answer E-001759/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Kris Peeters (PPE)

Subject: Availability of GMO-free Vitamin B2 supplement in chicken and pig farming

According to reports, too little Vitamin B2 supplement from GMO-free sources is available on the market to meet the needs of current organic production. However, this nutrient is essential for chickens and pigs while they are growing. Shortages cause problems in the nervous system, the digestive tract and the sex organs and lead to increased mortality. As cereals contain too little Vitamin B2, animal feed has Vitamin B2 added to it.

Under Article 9(1) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007,¹ however, products produced with GMOs may not be used as animal feed in organic production.

In view of the Commission's intention of seeking an increase in organic production as part of the Green Deal, the unavailability of Vitamin B2 from GMO-free sources is causing serious concern in organic farming circles.

1. Has the Commission discussed this with the European umbrella organisation representing organic farmers (IFOAM)?
2. The integrity of the internal market must be preserved. Does the Commission therefore know how each Member State is implementing Article 9(1) of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007?
3. Will the Commission take steps to permit a derogation for Vitamin B2 produced with GMOs so long as the supply of Vitamin B2 produced without GMOs remains insufficient to meet demand?

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91, OJ L 189, 20.7.2007, p. 1.