

**Question for written answer E-003999/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Hundreds of millions made ill by substandard food

The United Nations and the World Health Organisation are warning that substandard food is a threat to human health, causing 600 million to fall ill every year. The WHO is now calling on the governments of the world to ensure safe food for all, regardless of social status and income. The UN and WHO published this information on World Food Safety Day to draw attention to the problems caused by substandard nutrition.

Researchers estimate that around one in nine people fall ill and almost half a million die every year after eating contaminated food. Over 200 diseases caused by food contaminated with viruses, chemicals or harmful bacteria are known to date. Furthermore, over USD 100 billion in medical costs is incurred annually as a result of unsafe nutrition.

In view of this, what means does the Commission have at its disposal to uphold high food standards in the European Union?