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Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
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As the Commission referred in its reply to written question E-001276/2020, Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 empowers the Commission to adopt uniform EU rules as to the provision of voluntary information to the consumers on the unintentional presence of allergens in foods. Pending the adoption of such harmonised provisions, food business operators are responsible to assess the need to provide the precautionary allergen labelling and to ensure that it is not misleading for consumers. Competent national authorities of Member States have the duty to verify the compatibility of this voluntary information with the relevant EU legislation.

Over the last years, the Commission has made substantial progress in the field through the establishment of a European Network of Food Allergen Detection Laboratories. In particular, the Commission is developing reference measurement procedures, which both are prerequisites to the development and the implementation of rules on precautionary allergen labelling.

Improving consumer food information is a priority of the Farm to Fork Strategy¹, adopted on 20 May 2020, and can also contribute to the reduction of food waste. In this context, the Commission will consider pursuing the work on precautionary allergen labelling, taking also into account work on the priority areas listed in the annex to the Strategy.

In the meantime, the Commission actively participates with the Member States in the new work launched in 2019 by the Codex Alimentarius (Codex Committee on Food Labelling) on the precautionary allergen labelling.

¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee of the Regions A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system, COM/2020/381 final.