

**Question for written answer E-001746/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Frédérique Ries** (Renew)

Subject: Achieving the goal of 'zero toxic substances by 2030'

A few months ago, the Commission launched the EU Action Plan 'Towards a zero pollution ambition for air, water and soil - building a healthier planet for healthier people'.

We are now seeing a proliferation of claims of 'zero pesticide residues' based on the absence of residues but only above a specified limit, with a recalculated zero.

Specifically, a food product containing 10 molecules of pesticides that can be measured but are below this new zero (0.01 mg/l) could be 'vindicated' and could display this claim, which misleads consumers.

Can the Commission guarantee that the method used to amend the regulations on chemicals aimed at achieving 'zero toxic substances by 2030' will base the analysis of the dangers and risks on current toxicological knowledge and analytical performance, in particular by:

1. identifying by name the substances for which the dose is not poisonous;
2. providing for 'absence', rather than presence below a threshold;
3. linking this absence to a genuine zero in the sanitary sense of the word, rather than the commercial sense of 'zero toxic substances in concentrations above 0.01 ppm'?