

**Question for written answer E-001768/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Anna Fotyga (ECR)**

**Subject:** The need for further action to address differences in quality of products sold in Western and Central and Eastern European countries

During the EP's previous legislature, I campaigned alongside MEPs from my region for action to be taken to address differences in the composition and quality of products sold in Western and Central and Eastern European countries. The Commission, which initially played down the problem, acknowledged in 2017, through President Juncker<sup>1</sup>, that the issue needed to be regulated at EU level. Two years later, in June 2019, the Commission's Joint Research Centre published the results of the first part of an EU-wide study on the quality of food products sold in the EU<sup>2</sup>. The composition of more than a third of the 128 products studied differed depending on the country in which it was sold, while the products' front labels were identical or very similar. It was only a week ago that the results of the second part of the study were published<sup>3</sup>. This time only 20 products from between five and 10 Member States were subjected to sensory tests. In 50% of the cases, the different composition was perceptible to the testers.

1. How does the Commission assess the speed, comprehensiveness and scale of the study, bearing in mind that almost two years had elapsed between the presentation of the results of the first and second parts of the study?
2. When does the Commission/Joint Research Centre plan to conduct similar studies into other products sold on the EU market with regard to their composition and the misleading of consumers (e.g. household products, cosmetics, etc.)?
3. What further steps does the Commission plan to take in the European consumer's interest to finally and comprehensively address – four years after the Commission President's announcement – the issue of differences in product quality in the single market?

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<sup>1</sup> State of the Union Address 2017\* (europa.eu)

<sup>2</sup> Dual Food Quality: Commission releases study assessing differences in the composition of EU food products | EU Science Hub (europa.eu)

<sup>3</sup> Dual food quality: Commission releases study on sensory differences in food products | EU Science Hub (europa.eu)