

**Question for written answer E-002164/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Traian Băsescu (PPE)

Subject: Furan and methylfurans in food

Furan is an extremely volatile food contaminant that is naturally present in certain foods, predominantly tinned food and roasted coffee beans. If ingested daily, it can be a health risk, particularly for young children aged between 12 and 36 months and adults from 18 to 65 years old. In the long run, exposure to furan and methylfurans in food can lead to liver damage.

In 2017, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) adopted a scientific opinion on the public health risks associated with the presence of furan and methylfurans in food¹. It concluded that exposure to furan is a public health concern. As there are no legally binding maximum reference levels, consumers run the risk of being exposed to furan; levels of the contaminant therefore need to be reduced. In this regard, see:

1. What steps is the Commission taking to decide on and enforce maximum and safe levels of furan in food?
2. How can the Commission guarantee the presence of minimum and safe levels of furan in baby food?

¹ EFSA, 2017, Risks for public health related to the presence of furan and methylfurans in food.