

**Question for written answer E-002422/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Aurélia Beigneux (ID)**

Subject: Food waste – a major ethical and environmental challenge

It is estimated that 55 million Europeans do not have access to adequate nutrition, yet every year 88 million tonnes of food are thrown away in the European Union, some 20% of total production. While this waste happens throughout the food production and consumption chain, it is at the consumption end where most of the losses occur.

Waste is not only an ethical issue; it is also an environmental and economic issue. A steadily rising population coupled with the abundance brought about by our economic model leads to overproduction, encouraged by intensive agriculture. Ultimately, tackling this situation will involve addressing the over-exploitation of resources, alleviating the pressure on agricultural land and reducing the use of water, fertilisers and pesticides in production.

Therefore:

1. Does the Commission intend to encourage distributors to adopt a single marking system, based on the actual expiry date, in order to improve consumer understanding?
2. For ethical and ecological reasons, does the Commission intend to look again at its economic model and adopt a local approach with a view to producing only what is fair and necessary?