

**Question for written answer E-004283/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Raffaele Fitto (ECR)

Subject: E141 colourant additives in table olives

The production of table olives as an alternative to olive oil production is an economic mainstay for many regions.

However, the ban on using copper complexes of chlorophylls or chlorophyllins (E141) during processing under Regulation (EU) No 1129/2011 is likely to make it much harder to market them.

On the other hand, the use of E 140 is authorised in the food industry as a colourant additive for pasta, confectionery, desserts, soups, ice cream and conserved vegetables.

In an opinion adopted on 15 April and published on 7 May at the specific request of the European Commission, the EFSA indicated that current reported chlorophyll additive levels in foods are not a health hazard.

In view of this and bearing in mind that the marketing of chlorophyll-treated table olives is authorised elsewhere, for example in Canada and the USA, thereby placing our producers at a serious economic disadvantage, can the Commission say whether it could reconsider the decision to ban the use of chlorophyll for certain products such as table olives not intended for oil production?