Question for written answer E-002059/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Full transparency with regard to future food vaccines

The University of California is working on a project to transform edible plants, such as salad leaves and vegetables, into RNA vaccines.

The aim is to introduce the vaccines into plant cells. Specifically, the vaccines would be implanted into chloroplasts, organelles within plant cells that carry out photosynthesis.

This technology has two characteristics:

first, it uses ingestion rather than an injection;

and second, it does not need a burdensome cold supply chain (involving temperatures of between -15°C and -90°C) like that required by the current RNA vaccines.

However, given that both patients and consumers are keen to retain free, informed consent, this new technology will need to be carefully managed.

I would therefore like to ask the following questions:

1. Once this technology is ready for use, will the Commission ensure that all the rules for placing a medicinal product on the market are respected?

2. Will consumers – in this case patients – be fully informed of the medical nature of these foods by means of clear labelling?

3. Should we be afraid that, as with GMOs, people will see these new vaccines being imposed on them?

Supporter[1]

[1] This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Aurélia Beigneux (ID)