

**Question for written answer E-002989/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Joanna Kopcińska (ECR)

Subject: Titanium dioxide in food production

From 7 August this year, titanium dioxide may not be used in the production of food, nor may food containing this substance be placed on the market in all countries of the European Union. The decision follows the European Commission's ban on titanium dioxide as a food additive (E171), adopted on 14 January this year. The ban was introduced after a six-month transitional period, meaning that it actually came into force last month.

Nevertheless, E171 is not only found in food products but also in toothpaste, dyes, paints and sunscreens. The E171 contained in sunscreen reacts with light and becomes a semiconductor. The reaction takes place in the skin tissue and leads to the formation of one of the strongest free radicals in nature.

Does the Commission (and its executive agencies) see a need to revise the preventive measures in light of scientific studies and to obtain a more coherent and up-to-date assessment, which would provide a fully integrated approach to the conclusions regarding genotoxicity (i.e. the capacity of this substance to damage the genetic material of cells), particularly in view of the non-food routes in which it enters the body?