

**Question for written answer E-000436/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Virginie Joron (ID)

Subject: After the Christmas log and before the Twelfth Night cake, Brussels authorised powdered crickets in mashed potato, pizza and beer

On 3 January 2023, the Commission authorised a Vietnamese company to place a cricket powder on the EU market. This is the third insect¹ to be authorised for use in food products, following dried yellow mealworms in July and locusts in November 2022².

The insects undergo a 24-hour fasting period to allow them to discard their bowel content, after which they are frozen to death and then ground up.

The Commission says that these insects could replace certain ingredients in cereal bars (up to 3%), bread or chocolate confectionery (up to 2%) and sauces, soups, purées and pizzas (up to 1%)³.

The authorisation contains contradictory statements regarding product labelling⁴. For example, the Commission considers that no allergen labelling requirements concerning the potential to cause sensitisation should be included.

1. In light of consumer concerns and the risk of allergic reaction, can the Commission clarify whether the addition of insects to foodstuffs will be marked with an image on the labels of the purées or pizzas in question?
2. Can it say what (allergy-related) studies are planned⁵?

Submitted: 13.2.2023

¹ 1 900 other insect species, including the larvae of the Black soldier fly, are reportedly being studied by FAO specialists (see <https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/items/712990/fr#:~:text=La%20Commission%20a%20ensuite%20adopter%20un%20nombreuses%20r%C3%A9gions%20du%20monde>).

² <https://www.euractiv.fr/section/alimentation/news/eu-gives-green-light-to-blocs-first-edible-insect/>

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32023R0005>

⁴ Recitals 8 (in favour), 9 (not in favour) 10 and Annex (in favour).

⁵ Recital 9: 'In order to address the Authority's recommendation, the Commission is currently exploring the ways to carry out the necessary research on the allergenicity of *Acheta domesticus*. [...]'