

**Question for written answer E-000595/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Sylvia Limmer (ID)

Subject: Insects as 'novel foods' (2)

Based on Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 of 25 November 2015 on novel foods, the Commission has adopted a number of implementing regulations in recent years authorising insects as food, including, most recently, Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/5 of 3 January 2023 authorising the placing on the market of house cricket powder as a novel food.

When it comes to the rearing of insects for human consumption, however, the EU has no rules governing hygiene conditions, the use of antibiotics and biocide disinfectants, and residues or thresholds for pathogens and contaminants posing a health hazard.

Knowing that the consumption of insects can be dangerous in view of bacterial and chemical contamination, which can be made worse depending on hygiene conditions during rearing, and also given that no legal regulations exist and so the authorities have no powers to perform checks, can the Commission answer the following:

1. In the absence of a data and legal basis as described above, how will it ensure that the insects marketed in the EU are suitable for human consumption?
2. If it is of the opinion that this is the responsibility of the Member States, should this not then also be the case for the approval of insects, so as to prevent any legal loopholes that could jeopardise consumer safety?

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