

**Question for written answer E-000596/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Sylvia Limmer (ID)**

Subject: Insects as 'novel foods' (3)

A study drawn up by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) at the instigation of the Commission on potential biological and chemical hazards related to insects in food was published on 5 October 2015. It strongly recommended further research and data collection on human pathogenic parasites, fungi and yeasts, contaminants such as heavy metals in insects or the transmission of human viruses from residues from the intestinal contents of insects. Furthermore, according to the study, there is no information on the extent to which insects could act as vectors of prions. In addition, the report highlights the concern that antibiotics used in the breeding of insects could contribute to the development of resistance.

The latest EFSA opinion on the Commission's decision to authorise house crickets as food shows that there has been little progress as regards the body of knowledge in this field.

This gives rise to the following questions:

1. Can the Commission say whether it commissioned the studies and data collection recommended by EFSA and, if so, whether the data is publicly available and where it can be consulted?
2. If it did not do so, how is it possible that, since 2021, insects have been authorised as food by the Commission in the EU, although a significant risk to consumers cannot be ruled out?
3. How does the Commission deal with the fact that – outside the EU – insects may be reared on human dung?

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