

**Question for written answer E-002323/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Angelo Ciocca (ID)**

Subject: Increase in tricyclazole limit

In recent years, consumption of Asian rice has risen in Europe. In Italy alone, imports have more than doubled and they were up 86% in 2022. This is an alarming increase and it poses a risk to the health of EU citizens as this type of rice does not meet the standards imposed by the Commission on the EU's own producers. In fact, rice imported into the EU from Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam, India and Pakistan contains tricyclazole, a powerful carcinogenic pesticide that has been banned by the EU since 2016 but is tolerated in products imported from third countries.

At present, Asian rice is only allowed to be sold in the EU if it contains no more than 0.01 mg/kg of tricyclazole but, under a new European proposal, the maximum residue levels for this substance would be raised from 0.01 mg/kg to 0.09 mg/kg.

Given that this chemical has been proven to be dangerous and given that this proposal, if adopted, would inevitably increase the disparity and unfair competition between EU and third-country producers, I would ask the Commission the following questions:

1. Does it plan to forge ahead with the proposal, putting the entire rice sector at serious risk?
2. How will it protect our citizens' health from the risks this increase would entail?

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