

**Question for written answer E-003022/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Urgent re-assessment of aspartame safety

In 2022, the French Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale reached worrying conclusions in a study which monitored more than 100 000 French people as of May 2009: consumption of sweeteners may be linked to increased risk of cancer and obesity. In 2023, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified aspartame (E961) as a possible group 2B human carcinogen on the basis of limited evidence of cancer in humans.

Following up on question E-000135/2021 and the Commission's response in 2021¹, we would like further information about the progress on the Commission's 'upcoming re-evaluation of the salt of aspartame and acesulfame (E962), new and relevant evidence on the safety of aspartame that may have become available since the 2013 opinion will be assessed'.

1. What is the timeline for this re-evaluation?
2. Will it take into account the new IARC report² that concluded that aspartame is a possible 2B carcinogen and the new World Health Organization guideline³ on non-sugar sweeteners (NSS), which recommends against the use of NSS to control body weight or reduce the risk of non-communicable diseases?
3. Will the Commission now call on the European Food Safety Authority to conduct a thorough and urgent re-assessment of aspartame?

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¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2021-000135-ASW_EN.html.

² https://www.iarc.who.int/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Aspartame_PR.pdf

³ [https://www.who.int/news/item/15-05-2023-who-advises-not-to-use-non-sugar-sweeteners-for-weight-control-in-newly-released-guideline#:~:text=%C2%A9-,WHO%20advises%20not%20to%20use%20non%20sugar%20sweeteners%20for,control%20in%20newly%20released%20guideline&text=The%20World%20Health%20Organization%20\(WHO,of%20noncommunicabl,e%20diseases%20\(NCDs\).](https://www.who.int/news/item/15-05-2023-who-advises-not-to-use-non-sugar-sweeteners-for-weight-control-in-newly-released-guideline#:~:text=%C2%A9-,WHO%20advises%20not%20to%20use%20non%20sugar%20sweeteners%20for,control%20in%20newly%20released%20guideline&text=The%20World%20Health%20Organization%20(WHO,of%20noncommunicabl,e%20diseases%20(NCDs).)