

**Question for written answer E-000234/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Information on – and risks of – nanomaterials in food

The Commission is about to publish a delegated act¹ to replace the current definition of ‘engineered nanomaterials’ in the current Novel Foods Regulation². This recommendation is criticised by non-governmental organisations in particular, but also by the French authorities and the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (ANSES)³ and the Belgian authorities, which consider, among other pitfalls, that the 50 % threshold it sets could be detrimental to the information of the public and to the prevention of health and environmental risks.

The Commission already proposed a very similar delegated act⁴ in 2013, which was rejected by Parliament⁵ in 2014.

Furthermore, in May 2020, ANSES listed 37 nano substances used as food additives or ingredients in more than 900 food products⁶.

In the upcoming revision of the Novel Foods Regulation:

1. How many of these 37 substances will still be considered nanomaterials, and how will those that are no longer considered nanomaterials be regulated, especially in terms of authorisation?
2. How will consumers be informed of the presence of the latter substances (i.e. those no longer considered to be nanomaterials) in their food if these substances are not covered by the nano labelling requirement?
3. How will consumer health and the environment be affected?

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¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14049-Revision-of-the-definition-of-engineered-nanomaterial-in-food_en.

² Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on novel foods, amending Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EC) No 258/97 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1852/2001 (OJ L 327, 11.12.2015, p. 1), <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2015/2283/oj>.

³ <https://www.anses.fr/en/system/files/AP2018SA0168RaEN.pdf>.

⁴ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/regdel/#/delegatedActs/438?lang=en>.

⁵ European Parliament resolution of 12 March 2014 on the Commission delegated regulation of 12 December 2013 amending Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the provision of food information to consumers as regards the definition of ‘engineered nanomaterials’ (OJ C 378, 9.11.2017, p. 92).

⁶ <https://www.anses.fr/fr/system/files/ERCA2016SA0226Ra.pdf>.