

ORAL QUESTION H-0181/09

for Question Time at the part-session in April 2009
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Magor Imre Csibi
to the Commission

Subject: Weight loss products

Many manufacturers make extraordinary claims about their products, which risk misleading consumers and patients and may be contributing to the so-called yo-yo diet effect. Some products are 'medicines', which are licensed and have to undergo clinical trials and rigorous testing, whereas others are regulated under, for example, 'food supplements' or 'medical devices legislation', which have no or very limited efficacy requirements.

Is the Commission aware of the percentage of EU citizens using weight-loss products and services to try to maintain a healthy weight? Does the Commission plan to review the scope and tighten up the EU legislative framework regarding weight-loss products, considering the different EU regulatory regimes governing the manufacture, sale and marketing of these products? More specifically, does the Commission intend to put greater legal emphasis on enforcing the efficacy of these products? What action is the Commission taking to prevent the possibility of unscrupulous manufacturers misleading vulnerable consumers?

Tabled: 18.03.2009
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