**Question for oral answer O-000086/2016**

**to the Commission**

Rule 128

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on behalf of the ENF Group

Subject: Health risks related to the consumption of vegetable oils, and in particular palm oils

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) recently concluded that there is sufficient evidence that glycidyl fatty acid esters – contaminants formed during the processing of refined vegetable oils – are genotoxic and carcinogenic[[1]](#footnote-1).

The highest levels of glycidyl fatty acid esters were found in palm oils and palm fats.

Although levels of glycidyl fatty acid esters in palm oils and fats have halved in the past six years, palm oil remains the biggest contributor for most individuals and therefore poses a potential health concern.

Imported palm oils directly contribute to deforestation and the disappearance of certain primates.

The promotion of animal fats in reasonable quantities and in accordance with European gastronomy could help to sell part of the overstock in our dairy chain.

In light of the above considerations, how does the Commission intend to address this issue, taking into account the aforementioned EFSA conclusions?

Tabled: 8.6.2016

Forwarded: 10.6.2016

Deadline for reply: 17.6.2016

1. EFSA CONTAM Panel (EFSA Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain), 2016. MCPD and glycidyl esters in food. EFSA Journal 2016;14(5):4426, 159 pp. doi:10.2903/j.efsa.2016.4426. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)