

**Question for written answer P-011402/2012
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Kartika Tamara Liotard (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Progress of EFSA investigation into Aspartame

1. Is the Commission aware that during the re-evaluation of the sweetener Aspartame carried out by EFSA, only a small number of the experts appointed to the working group showed any commitment to the investigation, and that at some of the progress meetings only three of the 14 experts were present? Has the Commission noted the minutes of the EFSA meetings of the Aspartame working group¹?
2. What is the Commission's view of the structurally high rate of absenteeism of experts from the working group?
3. Does the Commission consider that EFSA is taking the Aspartame investigation seriously enough, and what message does it think the high absenteeism rate is sending to the media and the public?
4. Has the Commission asked EFSA for an explanation of the high absenteeism rate, and if so what was EFSA's response?
5. What measures is the Commission taking to ensure that a reliable and serious investigation takes place? What will the Commission do if the EFSA investigation proves to be insufficiently reliable?
6. Can the Commission supply a list of all the studies that have been submitted to EFSA? Which studies were included in the investigation? If any studies were excluded from consideration, what were the reasons for this?
7. Which organisation is responsible for carrying out a review of these studies?
8. When will EFSA receive the complete review of the studies that have been evaluated?

¹ See: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/fipwgs/documents/fipwgaspartame.pdf>