

**Priority question for written answer P-000812/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Transparency regarding insects contained in food

The farm-to-fork strategy that is being promoted as part of the European Green Deal is designed to speed up the transition to a 'sustainable' food system. To this end, the Commission is in favour of Europeans eating dried insects as an ingredient in food products such as chocolate, bread or soup. Since 2020, four different insect species have been authorised on the EU market: the yellow mealworm beetle (*Tenebrio molitor*), the migratory locust (*Locusta migratoria*), the house cricket (*Acheta domesticus*) and the lesser mealworm (*Alphitobius diaperinus*). Two other insect species are still being assessed by the EFSA.

In the meantime, the consumption of industrially farmed insects might be bound up with chemical and microbiological risks, while insect protein could well be dangerous to those with allergies. However, even assuming that insects are safe to eat, there are health, cultural and religious considerations that militate against doing so.

Regarding labelling requirements for insects as an ingredient in food products:

1. Does the Commission agree that consumers have a right to transparency regarding insects contained in their food?
2. Does it agree that that producers should be obliged to use the common name of an insect on packaging, rather than its Latin name, in order to ensure greater transparency for consumers?
3. Does it intend to oblige producers to place a special 'insect logo' on the packaging of products containing insects?

Submitted: 9.3.2023