

**Priority question for written answer P-000872/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Elsi Katainen (Renew)

Subject: Commission evaluation of smoke flavourings in the food sector

Based on the European Food Safety Authority's evaluation, the Commission is considering not renewing the authorisation of smoke flavourings currently accepted in the EU, since the evaluation could not rule out concerns about genotoxicity. However, the use of smoke flavourings has been considered safer for health than traditional smoking methods.

The traditional and desired taste of smoked products is a key feature in various meat products. For example, smoked products have been central to Finland's national food culture for centuries. If smoke flavourings were banned, pressure to use traditional smoking methods would increase. This change would have enormous economic effects, as current liquid smoke process lines would need to be either modified or completely renewed.

1. How does the Commission reconcile the intended health benefits of the ban on smoke flavourings with the potential shift by producers towards more harmful traditional smoking methods?
2. How does the Commission evaluate the impact of the potential ban on smoke flavourings on the EU's food industry, especially considering the economic implications, the challenges of transition and the investment needs for products reliant on these flavourings?
3. Is the Commission considering any measures to help the affected industries to transition away from smoke flavourings, such as an extended transition period?

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