

Question for written answer E-002390/2024

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Contaminated tinned tuna

There have been well-founded complaints about a widespread contamination of tinned tuna with mercury. This is a product that circulates horizontally in the internal market. At least half of tuna tins contain levels of mercury that exceed 0.3 mg/kg, which is the maximum threshold set for other types of fish. This means we are faced with yet another absolute scandal that is threatening public health in the EU, for which immediate measures are needed. Tuna sold at big supermarket chains in France, Germany, Spain and Italy was tested and all (!) samples were found to have been contaminated.

The mercury contamination thresholds have not been set based on limits that are safe for human health. Not only must the public authorities of each Member State and the supermarket chains take immediate steps to recall the unsuitable tins of tuna, they must also reset current thresholds based on levels that are safe for consumer health.

In view of this:

1. Assuming the Commission is aware of the issue, what steps has it taken for the immediate recall of this product, which is unsuitable for human consumption?
2. Given that complaints have been made, what steps have already been taken?
3. Does it have at its disposal any completed studies on safe mercury limits?

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