

**Question for written answer E-002929/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Mercury levels in tuna and their potential risks to public health

Recent analyses conducted by non-governmental organisations of mercury levels in canned tuna have brought to light significant concerns regarding consumer safety. According to their findings, in 57 % of nearly 150 canned tuna samples from EU countries and the UK, mercury levels exceeded the 0.3 mg/kg limit applicable to other fish. In some samples, mercury levels were reportedly four times higher than this threshold. By contrast, the current Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/617 allows up to 1 mg/kg of mercury in tuna, a discrepancy that raises questions about the adequacy of existing standards for safeguarding public health, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children and pregnant women.

1. Given the potential risks posed by methylmercury accumulation in tuna and its broader public health implications, does the Commission intend to request an updated risk assessment from the European Food Safety Authority?
2. Furthermore, will the Commission consider aligning mercury thresholds for tuna with those for other fish species to better protect consumers?
3. Finally, are there plans to implement precautionary measures, such as restricting the availability of high-mercury tuna products in sensitive environments such as schools, hospitals and maternity wards, as recommended by leading non-governmental organisations?

Submitted: 13.12.2024