

**Question for written answer E-002999/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 144

Majdouline Sbai (Verts/ALE), Mélissa Camara (Verts/ALE), Mounir Satouri (Verts/ALE), Maria Ohisalo (Verts/ALE), Ignazio Roberto Marino (Verts/ALE), Marie Toussaint (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Mercury levels in tuna and lack of transparency from the PAFF Committee

A recent report by the non-governmental organisations BLOOM and FoodWatch revealed that out of 148 cans of tuna sampled in five European countries, 10 % exceeded the mercury limits set for fresh tuna (1 mg of mercury per kilogram of product) and 57 % exceeded the more stringent limits in place for other seafood products (0.3 mg/kg). The same report also highlighted that the consumption of a single 100 g can contaminated at the maximum threshold set by the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF Committee) under Regulation (EU) 2023/195¹ for fresh tuna would suffice to exceed the tolerable weekly intake of mercury (as defined by the European Food Safety Authority) for any individual weighing up to 70 kg.

Taking all this into consideration:

1. Is the Commission planning to publish the list of attending members and detailed minutes of the working groups preparing the work of the PAFF Committee, as it does in the case of the Working Group on Industrial and Environmental Contaminants?
2. Does the Commission envisage facilitating MEPs' access to the work and documentation produced by the committee and, more generally, facilitating scrutiny by Parliament?
3. How has the Commission ensured in the past that business operators respect the limits set in Regulation (EU) 2023/915 and how does it plan to do so in the future?

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¹ Council Regulation (EU) 2023/195 of 30 January 2023 fixing for 2023 the fishing opportunities for certain stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Mediterranean and Black Seas, OJ L 28, 31.1.2023, p. 220, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/195/oj>.