

**Question for written answer E-002863/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Biljana Borzan (S&D)

Subject: Food additives approval system

Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008¹ requires food additives to be safe, technologically justified, non-misleading and beneficial to consumers. The re-evaluation of additives approved before 2009 was due by 2020, yet 30 % remain unassessed in 2025. Additives such as aspartame, last reviewed in 2013, fall outside this process. Most evaluations rely heavily on industry data and lack deadlines for future reviews.

1. Can the Commission explain how outdated reviews still ensure consumer safety in the light of new scientific understanding?
2. Does it have plans to rely more on independent academic studies?
3. Can it explain how it will accelerate evaluations and re-evaluations and introduce time limits for authorisation decisions, as seen in other regulatory frameworks, such as for pesticide approvals?

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¹ OJ L 354, 31.12.2008, p. 16, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2008/1333/oj>.