

Question for written answer E-000591/2026

to the Commission

Rule 144

Sirpa Pietikäinen (PPE), Sebastian Everding (The Left), Marta Temido (S&D), Emil Radev (PPE), Adam Jarubas (PPE), Jussi Saramo (The Left)

Subject: Protecting allergic consumers by harmonising EU ingredient labelling

For allergic or hypersensitive people, buying suitable food, drinks, medicine and cosmetics is often difficult and sometimes even dangerous. EU law currently requires that additives be shown in the ingredients list by their functional class followed by either the specific name or the E-number. However, it does not make the E-number universally mandatory. Currently, there is also no formal EU legislative act requiring disclosure on food labels of the raw material source (e.g. whether from wood, cotton or bamboo).

Would the Commission therefore clarify:

1. Does it intend to assess the feasibility of making E-numbers mandatory, in order to improve clarity and consistency for consumers?
2. Does it plan to examine whether disclosure of the raw material source of certain additives (e.g. plant-, mineral- or animal-derived, or whether wood, cotton or bamboo has been used) should be required where such differences may be relevant for allergic or hypersensitive consumers?

Supporter¹

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