

Question for written answer E-003330/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
César Luena (S&D)

Subject: Management of catering waste from international flights and the circular economy

Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 classifies catering waste from means of transport operating internationally as Category 1 material, which means it is subject to strict disposal rules for biosecurity reasons.

However, this category can also include unconsumed, sealed food and beverages from flights from third countries. According to industry data, these types of products account for more than 18 % of airline cabin waste worldwide. Treating them along with higher-risk waste can limit the prevention, reuse and recycling options, and have environmental repercussions that could have been avoided.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission have any data on the composition and the health and environmental risks of the different types of catering waste from international flights?
2. Would it consider carrying out a scientific risk assessment to determine whether certain unconsumed, low-risk products could be managed separately, while fully preserving biosecurity guarantees?
3. How will it ensure that the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 is compatible with the EU's objectives in terms of waste prevention, the circular economy and efficient use of resources?

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