

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001783/25
to the Commission
Nikolas Farantouris (The Left)
(2 May 2025)**

Subject: Use of insects and larvae in food

On 20 January 2025, the Commission authorised, with the agreement of the Member State Committee, the marketing of UV-treated powder obtained from *Tenebrio molitor* larvae as a novel food ⁽¹⁾. The novel food underwent a scientific assessment by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), which concluded that it was safe ⁽²⁾, despite reservations expressed by members of the scientific community. Further concerns stem from EFSA's conclusion that the consumption of the assessed insect proteins may trigger allergic reactions in people with pre-existing allergies, thus making labelling necessary. In addition, allergenic substances used in insect farming could end up in the final product. All this runs counter to the Commission's proposal that no specific labelling requirements should be included in the conditions of use of the food. As a result, however, consumers are not aware which products contain insects, as the label on the back of the product indicates them in scientific terms, such as carminic acid (E120).

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

1. Why does it consider that the conditions of use of the novel food should not include specific labelling requirements relating to the possibility of triggering primary sensitisation, as proposed by EFSA?
2. Are there plans to introduce informative labels for use in the labelling of foods containing insects?

Submitted: 2.5.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(4 September 2025)**

1. The current epidemiological evidence regarding the potential for insect species to provoke primary sensitisation is limited and equivocal. Consequently, due to insufficient evidence on primary sensitisation that could lead to allergic reactions when authorised insects are consumed, Member States have supported the position not to impose additional labelling requirements regarding this potential risk for foods containing insects.
2. All foods placed on the EU market have to comply with the labelling requirements of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers ⁽¹⁾ (the FIC Regulation). The FIC Regulation requires the mandatory indication of all ingredients on pre-packed food and provides that mandatory food information shall be marked in a conspicuous place in such a way as to be easily visible, clearly legible and, where appropriate, indelible. In the case of novel food containing insects, the name of the insect to be indicated, as specified in the relevant Commission Implementing Regulations authorising their placing on the market, is the scientific name followed by the common name in brackets. This name must be included in the list of ingredients. In addition, a statement, in close proximity to the list of ingredients, shall indicate that this ingredient may cause allergic reactions. The Commission considers that this existing legal framework ensures that consumers are well informed about novel foods containing insects.

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202500089

² <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.2903/j.efsa.2023.8009>

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on the provision of food information to consumers.