

EN

E-004485/2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(27.1.2026)

The Commission can confirm that the French Interprofessional Technical Institute of Perfume, Medicinal, Aromatic and Industrial Plants (ITEIPMAI) and the European Herb Growers Association (EUROPAM) have provided to the Commission new data on the presence of pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PAs) in dried herbs and herbal infusions. Data were also received from the Tea and Herbal Infusions Europe (THIE) association and the European Spice Association (ESA). These data have been provided following the annual call from the European Food Safety Authority for continuous collection of chemical contaminants occurrence data in feed and food¹.

Discussions are ongoing within the Working Group on Agricultural Contaminants² on the review of the maximum levels established by Regulation 2023/915³ for PAs in dried herbs, herbal infusions and food supplements containing botanical preparations taking these data into account. The discussions will continue in 2026.

The maximum levels for PAs in dried herbs, herbal infusions and food supplements are established, as for all contaminants in food, in accordance with the ‘as low as reasonably achievable’ approach following application of good practices at all stages of the food chain. The maximum levels are also equally applicable to dried herbs, herbal infusions and food supplements imported from third countries in the EU and therefore all non-EU imports have always to comply with the same maximum levels as EU producers.

¹ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/call/annual-call-continuous-collection-chemical-contaminants-occurrence-data-food-and-feed>.

² Working group of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed – Section Novel Food and Toxicological Safety of the Food Chain. Reference to these discussions is mentioned in the report of the meeting of the Standing Committee of 19 September 2025 under point A.01.
https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/6b3f2800-5cfd-4a99-81b6-01d2ad855e58_en?filename=reg-com_toxic_20250919_sum.pdf.

³ Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/915 of 25 April 2023 on maximum levels for certain contaminants in food and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 (OJ L 119, 5.5.2023, p. 103 ELI:
<http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/915/oj>).