

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000600/26
to the Commission
Yvan Verougstraete (Renew)
(11 February 2026)**

Subject: Recent contamination of formula milk sold in several EU Member States

In a single market based on free movement of goods, this fragmented approach calls into question the EU's ability to ensure uniform protection of infant health. It also raises questions as to both the effectiveness of EU alert and coordination mechanisms between national authorities and the monitoring carried out throughout the chain of production, including where raw materials come from non-EU countries.

Furthermore, until recently, there was no official EU regulatory threshold for the toxin cereulide in formula milk, which exacerbated uncertainty and delayed the EU's response.

Can the Commission state:

1. What measures it intends to take to ensure a prompt, coordinated and harmonised European response should a health crisis affect products for infants?
2. How it intends to strengthen monitoring, alert and communication mechanisms in such situations?
3. Whether it intends to establish clear EU regulatory thresholds for substances that pose a particular risk to infants and update them as needed?

Submitted: 11.2.2026

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(18 May 2026)**

1. On 10 December 2025, the Commission was alerted about cereulide contamination in products from a Nestlé company in the Netherlands, which recalled the same day 25 batches across 16 European countries, and treated the incident with utmost seriousness. As soon as the Commission was made aware of the voluntary recall linked to the increased levels of cereulide found in infant formulae, the different existing tools were activated to ensure cross-border coordination between the competent food safety authorities of the Member States. Due to the Chinese source of contamination (arachidonic acid oil, used as ingredient in infant formulae) and in absence of robust guarantees provided in the response by China, the Commission adopted reinforced controls on imports of arachidonic acid oil from China on 25 February 2026 which apply as of 26 February 2026 ⁽¹⁾.
2. In response to this incident, the Commission enhanced coordination with Member States by sharing Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) alerts and activating its existing network of crisis coordinators. Once the incident is resolved, the network of food and feed safety crisis coordinators will be reconvened to have a review on lessons learned, with special attention to communication protocols at all levels.
3. While the Commission is currently not planning a comprehensive review of EU infant nutrition rules, it remains committed to maintaining the highest food safety standards through continuous monitoring and improvement of existing measures.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2026/459/oj.