

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002428/26
to the Commission**

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(12 June 2026)

Subject: Risk of full dependency on China for vitamins and potential implications for food and health security

Vitamins are essential micronutrients that play a crucial role in human nutrition and health. Supplementation is frequently necessary, particularly for vulnerable population groups, and some vitamins are on the EU list of critical medicines. Additionally, vitamins are a key component of infant formula.

In agriculture, vitamins are key to supporting animal health, productivity and reproduction, thereby ensuring a stable supply of animal proteins through the meat, dairy, eggs and fish consumed daily by EU citizens.

The EU is highly dependent on vitamin imports from China. The remaining EU production capacity is at risk of irreversible loss due to global price distortions driven by structural overcapacity in China. Given the complex technical expertise and high capital investment required, once lost, this capacity will be extremely difficult to rebuild. The EU therefore faces a risk of irreversible dependency, threatening its food and health security.

1. How does the Commission assess the importance of vitamins as critical molecules for European health and food security?
2. Is it aware of the risk of the irreversible loss of EU vitamin production and its implications for the EU's food and health security?
3. Is it planning measures to reduce dependency and support production in the EU?

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Answer given by Mr Šešćović on behalf of the European Commission
(29 July 2026)

Vitamins are essential to ensure the nutritional adequacy of several food categories regulated under Regulation (EU) No 609/2013 ⁽¹⁾.

They are also used as ingredients in food supplements and fortified foods, providing European consumers the choice to supplement their dietary vitamin intakes.

The Commission acknowledges the importance of ensuring food security for European citizens and, to this end, the EU has adopted the European Preparedness Union Strategy ⁽²⁾ and established the European Food Security Crisis preparedness and response Mechanism ⁽³⁾.

The Commission continues to work with Member States and stakeholders to monitor dependencies on imports of agricultural inputs and developments of agri-food supply chains, as part of the EU's preparedness efforts.

The latest State of Food Security in the EU report ⁽⁴⁾ identifies highly concentrated imports for several feed additives, including vitamins. While these dependencies warrant attention, they have not resulted in disruptions affecting their overall availability in the EU.

The European Council of 30 June 2023 called for reducing critical dependencies and for de-risking, not decoupling, from China. Since then, the EU has intensified diversification and resilience efforts through the European Economic Security Strategy ⁽⁵⁾, and cooperation with reliable partners.

The EU Protein Action Plan ⁽⁶⁾ and other resilience and competitiveness initiatives under the Vision on Agriculture and Food ⁽⁷⁾, further assess strategic dependencies and identify measures to strengthen resilience.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/609/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ European Commission, European Preparedness Union Strategy, JOIN(2025) 130 final; https://commission.europa.eu/topics/preparedness_en.

⁽³⁾ European Commission, European Food Security Crisis preparedness and response Mechanism; https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy/agri-food-supply-chain/ensuring-global-food-supply-and-food-security_en.

⁽⁴⁾ EU Agricultural Economic briefs; <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/circabc-ewpp/d/d/workspace/SpacesStore/a11b55ad-563f-4e9c-b6d1-acb372e6cf38/download>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52023JC0020&utm>.

⁽⁶⁾ European Commission, Reducing the plant protein deficit of the European Union: https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/farming/crop-productions-and-plant-based-products/cereals/reducing-plant-protein-deficit-eu_en.

⁽⁷⁾ COM(2025)75 final; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0075>.

These include a study on EU dependencies, possible support for production capacity in the future European Competitiveness Fund ⁽⁸⁾, simplified rules on feed additives, and enhanced risk monitoring.

⁽⁸⁾ European Commission, European Competitiveness Fund — Factsheet, 22 June 2026; <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/circabc-ewpp/d/d/workspace/SpacesStore/3c23318f-af78-4d2c-81a1-aacc70942d2c/download>.