

EN
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Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
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The procedure of Article 8 of Regulation 1925/2006¹ has to be initiated where substances other than vitamins and minerals are added to foods or are used in the manufacture of foods under conditions that would result in the ingestion of amounts greatly exceeding those reasonably expected to be ingested under normal conditions of consumption of a balanced and varied diet and/or would otherwise represent a potential risk to consumers.

The Article 8 procedure is not used to systematically harmonise the use of other substances in food at EU level. Instead, the procedure is applied selectively only in well justified cases. Since the entry into application of Regulation 1925/2006 in 2007, the Commission has initiated this procedure in eight cases following consultation with the Member States and a thorough assessment of whether the conditions for initiating the procedure have been met, in accordance with Regulation 1925/2006 and Article 3 of Regulation 307/2012².

The Commission is well aware of the impact of the application of the procedure of Article 8 and wishes to highlight that the primary objective of this procedure is to ensure the protection of human health. The addition of a substance to food or its use in the manufacture of foods is prohibited when a harmful effect on health is identified, following the assessment of the safety of the substance by the European Food Safety Authority.

¹ Regulation (EC) No 1925/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on the addition of vitamins and minerals and of certain other substances to foods, OJ L 404, 30.12.2006, p. 26.

² Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 307/2012 of 11 April 2012 establishing implementing rules for the application of Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 1925/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the addition of vitamins and minerals and of certain other substances to foods, OJ L 102, 12.4.2012, p. 2.