

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000308/26
to the Commission
Biljana Borzan (S&D)
(27 January 2026)**

Subject: EU-wide withdrawals of infant formula

Following the recent EU-wide withdrawals of infant formula due to suspected contamination with cereulide (*Bacillus cereus* toxin), and in the light of ongoing investigations by French authorities into infant deaths potentially linked to the consumption of recalled products, serious concerns have arisen regarding the effectiveness of EU food safety governance for products intended for the most vulnerable consumers.

1. When was the Commission first informed of the suspected health risks related to the ingredient(s) concerned and of the infant deaths currently under investigation in France, and how and when was this information transmitted to Member States via the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF)?
2. How does the Commission assess the adequacy of existing EU rules on ingredient sourcing, supplier oversight, hazard analysis and manufacturer notification obligations for infant formula, and does this case reveal structural shortcomings in upstream risk detection and cross-border coordination?
3. What immediate measures has the Commission taken to ensure full accountability along the infant formula supply chain, and will it commit to a comprehensive review of EU food safety rules applicable to infant nutrition in order to guarantee the highest level of effective protection in practice?

Submitted: 27.1.2026

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(11 March 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. The first the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) notification was issued on 12 December 2025. On 20 January 2026, the Commission was informed that France was investigating two infant deaths potentially linked to the recalled formula, though no causal connection has since been established.
 2. 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. The Commission has found no evidence that existing EU rules are inadequate but remains committed to continuously review procedures to enhance food safety governance.
 3. In response to this incident, the Commission enhanced coordination with Member States by sharing RASFF alerts and activating its network of crisis coordinators. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) was urgently tasked with establishing an Acute Reference Dose (ARfD) for cereulide to guide harmonised risk management. Additionally, the Commission urged Chinese authorities to investigate contaminated arachidonic acid oil batches identified as the source of the contamination of the supply chain. While the Commission is not currently planning a comprehensive review of EU infant nutrition rules, it remains committed to maintaining the highest safety standards through continuous monitoring and improvement of existing measures.
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