

**Question for written answer E-003435/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Alviina Alametsä (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Monitoring the presence of glycoalkaloid levels in processed potato products

Glycoalkaloids occur naturally in potatoes, but high levels of these in food and feed can be toxic for both humans and animals.

Food sold by a Finnish pet food supply chain has just caused numerous cases of pets falling sick. The reason proved to be a potato flake that caused glycoalkaloid poisoning.

In 2022, the European Commission adopted the recommendation¹ on monitoring the presence of glycoalkaloids in potatoes and potato-derived products.

1. Why has the Commission merely adopted a recommendation on the matter, but no binding legislation?
2. To what extent did the Member States, and especially Finland, implement the Commission's recommendations adopted in 2023 on monitoring and reporting?
3. The recommendations in several Member States regarding the safe level of glycoalkaloids are higher than that in the Commission's recommendation. What steps does the Commission intend to take to ensure that the recommendations for the presence of glycoalkaloids are consistent throughout the EU?

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¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022H0561>