

**Question for written answer E-003538/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Making Europe a leader in food innovation: fostering an efficient regulatory pathway for fermentation-enabled foods

The EU should set out a forward-looking regulatory framework if it wishes to position itself as a global pioneer in food innovation and avoid falling behind other regions.

This starts by addressing the regulatory obstacles hampering the production and marketing of fermentation-enabled foods, including animal-free egg and dairy alternatives, which have the potential to make Europe a leader in sustainable food innovation.

Against this backdrop:

1. Without prejudice to food security, does the Commission plan to address the challenges related to the food safety authorisation process, which are currently delaying the production of fermentation-enabled foods?
2. More specifically, does the Commission plan to better implement the Novel Foods Regulation by making it more open and transparent, and by providing timely and precise information and guidance to applicants?
3. What actions does the Commission plan to take to promote food innovation, including precision fermentation, and to position the EU as a global leader in the area of sustainable food innovation?

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