

**Question for written answer E-000879/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Sebastian Everding (The Left)

Subject: Responsibility of the Commission under Article 36(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 regarding the suitability of foods for vegetarians and vegans

Article 36(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 requires the Commission to adopt implementing acts concerning voluntary food information related to the suitability of foods for vegetarians or vegans. Despite this obligation, no act defining or standardising such information has yet been adopted.

Clear and reliable consumer information is essential for consumer protection. Reliance on private certification schemes for vegan products is insufficient: they are fragmented, can be misleading and place responsibility on consumers rather than regulators and producers. The lack of harmonised definitions and standards undermines transparency and trust in the food system.

Furthermore, the absence of clear definitions and standards can pose serious health risks and lead to fatal outcomes, as illustrated by the death of EU citizen Anna Bellisario in 2023 in Milan after she consumed a product marketed as ‘vegan’ that was later found to contain cow milk.

1. At what stage is the Commission currently in preparing such an implementing act, and when are the planned mandatory public consultations on the proposal expected to take place?
2. If preparatory work has not yet begun, when does the Commission intend to initiate this process?
3. Does the Commission plan to establish a mandatory and standardised EU-wide vegan certification scheme to strengthen consumer protection in the EU?

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