



To the attention of Ms. Stella Kyriakides
European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety
European Commission, Rue de la Loi 200
B – 1049 Brussels

Brussels, 17 December 2019

Subject: Your commitment to protect EU consumers' health from food additive E171

Dear Commissioner Kyriakides,

The undersigned would like to congratulate you for your appointment as the new European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety.

During your hearing in the European Parliament on 1st October 2019, you expressed your commitment to the protection of consumers' health throughout the European Union. In this respect, we would like to draw your attention to a rising concern among EU citizens: the situation of the food additive E171 (Titanium Dioxide - TiO₂).

E171 is a food additive partly made of nanoparticles of Titanium Dioxide and mainly found in food such as confectionery, cakes, desserts, ice-cream, biscuits, chocolate bars, bakery and pastry products, etc. and serves a purely aesthetic function without any nutritional benefit. A significant number of recent scientific publications have however questioned the safety of this food colourant and highlighted potential carcinogenic risks related to its consumption.

The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (ANSES) recently emphasized that there are too few data to be able to carry out a proper assessment of the risks associated with E171 consumption. The latest opinion on E171 published by EFSA on 12 July 2019 also acknowledges a number of data gaps and uncertainties in relation to safety.

Considering these uncertainties as well as the growing scientific concerns relating to this additive, the French Government decided to apply the precautionary principle and recently published a decree preventing sales of food products containing E171 as of 1st January 2020.

This precautionary measure was adopted with a view to protect consumers' health. Over 84,000 of them already expressed their will to uphold the French ban in the presence of uncertainties in relation to food additives that serve no nutritional purpose and may present health risks.

In preparation for the entry into force of the French suspension, many food manufacturers such as the National Union of Confectionery (representing 97% of the confectionery market in France) or brands like Delacre, Stimorol, Carte d'Or, m&m's have already abandoned (or have pledged to abandon) the use of E171 in food put on the French market. These changes were made without any difficulties or notable economic impacts through substitution or simple removal of this additive.



Members States will soon take a decision on the extension, modification or repeal of the French measure in the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCoPAFF), as provided for in Article 54 of the General Food Law Regulation (Reg. (EC) No 178/2002). In that regard, we strongly call upon you and the European Commission to support a harmonized EU approach which would uphold the extension of the French precautionary measure to the whole European Union.

We thank you in advance for supporting the protection of the health of all European consumers in the presence of food additives presenting potential risks and for the decisive actions you will undertake in accordance with the precautionary principle.

Yours faithfully,

MEP Isabella Adinolfi (5-star Movement, Italy)
MEP François Alfonsi (Greens-EFA, France)
MEP Eric Andrieu (S&D, France)
MEP Tiziana Beghin (5-star Movement, Italy)
MEP Benoît Biteau (Greens-EFA, France)
MEP Biljana Borzan (S&D, Croatia)
MEP Damien Carême (Greens-EFA, France)
MEP Fabio Massimo Castaldo (5-star Movement, Italy)
MEP Ignazio Corrao (5-star Movement, Italy)
MEP David Cormand (Greens-EFA, France)
MEP Rosa D'Amato (5-star Movement, Italy)
MEP Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield (Greens-EFA, France)
MEP Karima Delli (Greens-EFA, France)
MEP Petra De Sutter (Greens-EFA, Belgium)
MEP Eleonora Evi (5-star Movement, Italy)
MEP Laura Ferrara (5-star Movement, Italy)
MEP Mario Furore (5-star Movement, Italy)
MEP Chiara Gemma (5-star Movement, Italy)
MEP Dino Giarrusso (5-star Movement, Italy)
MEP Yannick Jadot (Greens-EFA, France)
MEP Petros Kokkalis (GUE-NGL, Greece)
MEP Tilly Metz (Greens-EFA, Luxembourg)
MEP Ludmila Novak (EPP, Slovenia)
MEP Piernicola Pedicini (5-star Movement, Italy)
MEP Sabrina Pignedoli (5-star Movement, Italy)
MEP Frédérique Ries (Renew, Belgium)
MEP Michèle Rivasi (Greens-EFA, France)
MEP Caroline Roose (Greens-EFA, France)
MEP Daniela Rondinelli (5-star Movement, Italy)
MEP Mounir Satouri (Greens-EFA, France)
MEP Marie Toussaint (Greens-EFA, France)



MEP Mick Wallace (GUE-NGL, Ireland)
MEP Salima Yenbou (Greens-EFA, France)
MEP Marco Zullo (5-star Movement, Italy)