

**Question for written answer E-014676/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Clara Eugenia Aguilera García (S&D)

Subject: Use of *Stevia rebaudiana* Bertoni in food: plants and dried leaves

Consumers in some EU countries now have increasing access to the plant *Stevia rebaudiana* Bertoni, either through the Internet or at local markets where dried, whole or ground leaves of this plant variety are sold.

Commission Decision 2000/196/EC, however, stipulates that *Stevia rebaudiana* Bertoni plants and dried leaves may not be placed on the Community market as a food or food ingredient. Their use (in purified form) is permitted only as a steviol glycoside sweetener: additive E 960.

Have there been any developments in relation to the authorisation of *Stevia rebaudiana* Bertoni as a novel food in any of the Member States?

Might the entry into force of the new European legislation on novel foods speed up the approval procedures?

When will it be possible to apply for authorisation for this plant as a novel food under the recently approved 'novel food' system?