

**Question for written answer E-014608/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Salvatore Domenico Pogliese (PPE)**

Subject: Harmonisation of national rules relating to foodstuffs for those suffering from coeliac disease

Recent medical studies have shown that coeliac disease affects about one European in 100. In addition, it has been found that there has been a clear upward trend in the number of cases of coeliac disease over the past five years. Given that nearly five million Europeans have to use gluten-free products in their daily diets, it is important to stress that even today it is difficult to clearly identify the presence of ingredients containing gluten in all food products. Moreover, there seem to be considerable differences in the assistance provided under national legislation for people suffering from coeliac disease.

Can the Commission therefore answer the following questions:

1. Will it verify the reason for the differences in the kinds of subsidies being granted for the purchase of gluten-free foods in various EU Member States and, where necessary, submit legislative proposals with a view to establishing a single European system of subsidies?
2. Will it make it compulsory to include on labelling the words 'gluten-free' or 'contains traces of gluten' for everyday foods, as is already being done for some allergens?
3. Given the high number of people with coeliac disease in Europe, could it not submit a set of legal provisions to ensure that in all Member States at least one gluten-free meal is available in canteens and schools, especially in order to meet the requirements of children?