

Basic information	
2016/2637(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects Resolution on trans fats (TFAs)	Procedure completed
Subject 3.10.07 Animal and vegetable fats, oils 3.10.10 Foodstuffs, foodstuffs legislation 4.60.02 Consumer information, advertising, labelling	

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
	ENVI	Environment, Climate and Food Safety	SOMMER Renate (PPE) SÂRBU Daciana Octavia (S&D) BAREKOV Nikolay (ECR) JÄÄTTEENMÄKI Anneli (ALDE) BOYLAN Lynn (GUE/NGL) HÄUSLING Martin (Verts /ALE) PEDICINI Piernicola (EFDD) D'ORNANO Mireille (ENF)	05/04/2016 05/04/2016 05/04/2016 05/04/2016 05/04/2016 05/04/2016 05/04/2016
European Commission	Commission DG		Commissioner	
	Health and Food Safety		ANDRIUKAITIS Vytenis Povilas	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
25/10/2016	Debate in Parliament		
26/10/2016	Decision by Parliament	T8-0417/2016	Summary
26/10/2016	Results of vote in Parliament		
26/10/2016	End of procedure in Parliament		

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Technical information	
Procedure reference	2016/2637(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Debate or resolution on oral question/interpellation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142-p5
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/8/06121

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Amendments tabled in committee		PE587.689	01/09/2016	
Motion for a resolution		B8-1115/2016	25/10/2016	
Motion for a resolution		B8-1136/2016	25/10/2016	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0417/2016	26/10/2016	Summary
European Commission				
Document type		Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2017)54	29/03/2017	

Resolution on trans fats (TFAs)

2016/2637(RSP) - 26/10/2016 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 586 votes to 19 with 38 abstentions, a resolution tabled by the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety on trans fats (TFAs).

Members recalled that trans fatty acids (TFAs) are a particular type of unsaturated fat mainly found in industrially produced partially hydrogenated vegetable oils. Many restaurants and fast-food outlets use TFAs to deep-fry foods because they are inexpensive and can be reused many times in commercial fryers.

Frequent consumption of industrially produced partially hydrogenated vegetable oils has been associated with an **increased risk** of cardiovascular disease, infertility, endometriosis, gallstones, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, obesity and some cancers.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) recommends that 'TFA intakes should be as low as is possible within the context of a nutritionally adequate diet'. The **WHO** recommends more specifically that consumption of TFAs **should be less than 1 % of daily energy intake**. However, a recent study compiling data from nine EU countries reports that higher intakes exist within specific sub-populations in some of those Member States

EU legislation **does not regulate** the content of TFAs in foodstuffs, nor does it require its labelling. The fact that unfortunately only one in three consumers in the EU has knowledge about TFAs shows that labelling measures have failed to be effective.

Under the circumstances, Parliament called on the Commission **to establish within two years, an EU legal limit on industrial TFAs (as both an ingredient and a final product) in all food** in order to reduce their intake among all population groups. The proposal should be accompanied by a thorough impact assessment evaluating the industrial reformulation costs that would be incurred by a mandatory limit and the potential for these costs to be passed on to consumers.

Members were concerned that **vulnerable groups**, including citizens with lower education and socioeconomic status, and children, are more inclined to eat food with higher TFA content.

The resolution also recalled that studies show that policies aimed at restricting the TFA are feasible, achievable and likely to have a positive effect on public health. **Denmark successfully** brought in a national limit of 2 % of trans fat in oils and fats in 2003.

The food industry was asked to **prioritise alternative solutions that comply with health standards**, such as the use of improved oils, new procedures for the modification of fats or combinations of substitutes for TFAs (fibres, cellulose, starches, protein mixtures, etc.).