

**Question for written answer E-006484/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Hugues Bayet (S&D) and Marc Tarabella (S&D)**

Subject: Rainbow Loom

Rainbow Loom bracelets appeared in the European Union this year. Having seen the success of these small elastic bracelets, many manufacturers launched out into this flourishing market. This led to cheap copies being developed.

At the end of July 2014, British researchers announced that in 18 % of the products tested, many of the chemicals used in the manufacture of these bracelets exceeded permitted limits. Some of the 'low cost' copies contain up to 50 % of phthalates; the limit in the EU is 0.1 % normally.

1. Will the Commission take a stand on this matter?
2. Phthalates are suspected of being carcinogenic. Is it not the European Union's duty to ensure consumer protection laws are complied with?