

**Question for written answer E-006541/2014/rev.1  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Olaf Stuger (NI)**

Subject: Projected EU ban on high-energy hairdryers, smartphones and electric kettles

An article<sup>1</sup> in The Telegraph reports that, having imposed restrictions on vacuum cleaners, the EU now intends to prohibit certain high-wattage hairdryers, smartphones, electric kettles and lawnmowers.

However, the Dutch Foreign Minister and future Commissioner, Frans Timmermans, takes the view that Brussels should refrain from interfering in matters regarding the wattage of domestic appliances such as vacuum cleaners.

1. Does the Commission share this point of view?
2. Does it agree that, if the wattage of hairdryers or vacuum cleaners, for example, is reduced, they will have to be used for longer to achieve the desired result, actually increasing electricity consumption?
3. What is it really seeking to achieve? Could it not simply leave the choice of electric domestic appliances to consumers in the various Member States?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/11061538/EU-to-ban-high-energy-hair-dryers-smartphones-and-kettles.html>