

**Question for written answer E-002004/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Olga Sehnalová (S&D)

Subject: Misleading packaging practices

Over the past few years, producers have increasingly introduced packaging practices aimed at misleading European consumers. Basically, consumers are led to think that a product is in greater quantity or of better quality than is actually the case.

Is the Commission aware of such misleading packaging practices?

A recent study by the German consumer association Verbraucherzentrale Hamburg refers to 500 cases, involving food and non-food products, in which the volume of an identical product has been reduced in recent years while the price has remained the same or even increased. The results show the huge extent of the problem faced by European consumers.

Are there any Commission findings with regard to packaging practices since 2009, when Directive 2007/45/EC laying down rules on nominal quantities for prepacked products came into force?

With reference to the key findings of Parliament's study on misleading packaging practices, none of the countries concerned has carried out a survey directly addressing consumers' awareness, attitudes or behaviour in respect of misleading packaging practices. Such a survey is strongly recommended.

Does the Commission endorse this recommendation? If so, does it intend to undertake such a survey?