

Question for written answer E-004843/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Re-use of glasses in the EU

It is estimated that over a billion people in developing countries need glasses but cannot afford them. Many are suffering eye damage as a result of long hours of sun exposure, particularly children and the elderly. In the case of some communities, such as those in desert regions or those who work in the traditional fishing industry, there are additional factors such as sandstorms and the reflection of UVA rays in the water.

Many organisations in the European Union are developing schemes to enable the donation of used glasses to families who cannot afford to buy them, both within and outside the EU, with the aim of reducing the high rates of cataracts and blindness in those communities.

1. Is there any form of legislation on the recycling and/or re-use of used glasses, including sunglasses and/or glasses with prescription lenses?
2. Is the Commission planning on introducing any kind of guidelines or other types of initiatives to promote and facilitate the re-use and/or recycling of glasses so that they may benefit those wherever they might be needed, particularly in developing countries?