

**Question for written answer E-005823/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Daniela Aiuto (EFDD), Laura Agea (EFDD), Piernicola Pedicini (EFDD), Fabio Massimo Castaldo (EFDD), Laura Ferrara (EFDD) and Dario Tamburrano (EFDD)**

Subject: Problems with disposable nappies

Every baby uses, on average, around 2 500 disposable nappies, in the manufacture of which a wide range of chemicals are employed.

Nappies come into such close contact with babies' skin, which these substances can then penetrate, causing irritation and allergies in those with a predisposition thereto.

However, manufacturers are not currently obliged to provide a detailed list of the components used in the production of their nappies. Tests on six different brands of disposable nappies revealed concentrations of tin, which may indicate the presence of organostannic compounds, which can have toxic effects including neurotoxicity, reproductive and developmental problems, and immunotoxicity. The measured concentrations were less than the EU regulatory level of 0.1 % by weight of tin prescribed by REACH Annex XVII No 20, although the same regulation completely bans the use of organostannic compounds in antifouling paint for boats, due to the serious effects they have on marine organisms.<sup>1</sup>

Given how vulnerable the users of these products are, does the Commission consider it necessary to provide clear and specific rules in order to guarantee them the highest level of protection?

Does it consider it necessary to oblige manufacturers to provide a detailed list of the components used in the production of their nappies?

Considering also the huge environmental impact of disposing of disposable nappies, does it intend to introduce a policy aimed at encouraging the use of reusable and/or biodegradable nappies?

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/xrs.2609/abstract>