

**Question for written answer E-006065/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Impediment to recycling ink and toner cartridges

The potential to recycle ink and toner cartridges is being hindered by the producers. They are making it impossible or extremely expensive to recycle or refill cartridges by, among other things, integrating chips in these cartridges or making unnecessary innovations. As a result, only 15-20 % of all cartridges are recycled and over 20 % end up in landfill. In addition, the producers ensure that other, cheaper cartridges do not fit in their printers, which means that consumers are forced to purchase the expensive brand-specific cartridges.

1. Is the Commission planning to take action against these practices, given that there is no technical reason for the integration of chips or the constant updates and these only serve to hinder the recycling system and to harm consumers?
2. Does the Commission intend to initiate legislation to curb the mechanisms which are currently hindering the recycling of cartridges, including by amending the WEEE Directive¹ and/or the Recast of the RoHS Directive²?
3. Written questions E-1445/2007 and E-0699/03 refer to the Commission's investigation into the possible violation of the competition rules by the producers of printers and cartridges. Where can this investigation be found, and what steps have already been taken on the basis of the results of this investigation?

¹ WEEE Directive: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32012L0019&from=EN>

² Recast of the RoHS Directive: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32011L0065&from=EN>