

**Question for written answer E-006177/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Presence of toxic chemicals in children's mats and toys

A number of European consumer protection associations, including Test-Achats, recently carried out an investigation into foam puzzle mats and other toys aimed at children aged 0-36 months. The investigation found high concentrations of formamide, a toxic chemical, in many items.

The health risks are not insignificant. Formamide causes reproductive toxicity and irritates the eyes, respiratory tract and skin. In newborns, prolonged exposure can have health consequences even at low levels.

France has already legislated on the matter and has banned formamide concentrations above 200 mg/kg. In Belgium, the threshold is 5 000 mg/kg.

What is the Commission waiting for before taking steps to limit the quantity of formamide in toys aimed at young children?