

**Question for written answer E-008016/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Hugues Bayet (S&D)**

Subject: Protecting workers against carcinogenic chemical agents

On 28 April, European trade unions paid homage to the 100 000 people who die each year from occupational cancer. Trade unions attribute this high number notably to the lack of ambition shown by the European Commission in protecting workers against carcinogenic chemical agents.

In October 2013, the previous European Commission suspended work on defining exposure limits for carcinogenic chemical products. Consequently, according to the ETUC, there are legal exposure limits in place at European level for a mere three chemical agents.

The Commission's bid to provide 'better' legislation via the REFIT programme must ensure that worker and consumer safety is not undermined but also that work to ensure better protection is not hampered.

Can the Commission explain how it intends to ensure the best health and safety protection for workers and the public at large, rights which are clearly mentioned in the Charter of Fundamental Rights? Have these objectives been taken into account in the latest Commission proposals on REFIT?