

**Question for written answer E-008155/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: Alternative to paper

The world has doubled its use of paper in the last twenty years or so, and one of the biggest consumers is Belgium, the centre of European bureaucracy, whose annual paper consumption is equivalent to 8.5 large trees per head of population. Although Europe leads the world when it comes to the paper recycling rate, there is room for improvement, as it is still the case that only half of the paper industry's material needs are covered by recycling.

Bearing in mind that there is a substitute available for conventional paper, one that is made not from trees, but from other fibre sources which do not cause deforestation and environmental pollution, does the Commission think that the EU should commit itself to encouraging the production of 'alternative' paper? Will it take practical action, above all in view of the huge amount of paper that the EU itself consumes every year?