

**Question for written answer E-009475/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Dimethyl fumarate

Dimethyl fumarate (DMF) is a substance present in many everyday objects, and particularly in armchairs and sofas and shoes.

The French Committee for the Coordination of Toxicovigilance, in a report published on 10 January 2009, stated that, on the basis of the latest available information, a significant number of skin reactions could plausibly be attributed to DMF. On its website, the French Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and Women's Rights confirms the threat posed by the substance, identifying it as the probable or certain cause of a series of cases of allergic skin reaction reported to the authorities since 2008.

While prohibiting the marketing and use of DMF within the European Union, Commission Regulation (EU) No 412/2012 of 15 May 2012 also states that 'Directive 98/8/EC does not foresee restricting the import into the Union of articles treated with biocides'. This means that, although such products may not be produced in the Union, they enjoy free access to the market here: a worrying situation, given that, in 2011, for example, France imported EUR 4.55 billion of Chinese textiles.

Why does the Commission not take the rational step of closing the EU market to DMF?