

**Question for written answer E-010068/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: Awareness policies allowing companies to be more informed about the hazardous chemicals used in their products and to disclose information to customers

Consumers, retailers and brands are increasingly demanding that companies disclose information about the hazardous chemicals used in their products and in the supply chain, and that they be more transparent.

Business strategies for managing chemicals vary widely. Some companies adopt an active strategy, which means that they integrate information on chemicals into product design, material selection and supplier engagement. Others, especially those that are downstream from chemical manufacturing and use chemicals by virtue of the products they purchase, use predominantly a passive strategy, which merely means complying with government regulations.

The passive strategy involves two issues: first, companies are more vulnerable to the hidden liabilities of chemicals of concern in products; and second, compliance with regulations proves to be a challenge. The reasons for this lie in both a lack of awareness of chemical regulations, especially for small businesses and those far down the commercial supply chain, and in the poor quality of the information systems in place to enable the reliable exchange of information on chemical content.

Under the EU REACH regulation, companies are required to know whether their product contains a substance of very high concern (SVHC).

Will the EU implement awareness policies aimed at encouraging companies to be more informed and subsequently allowing customers make safer choices?