

**Question for written answer E-010665/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Transparency of guarantees (Directive 1999/44/EC) and economic life of products

The new circular economy package which the Commission intends to submit by the end of this year affords a unique opportunity to impose stricter consumer protection requirements. With a longer guarantee period and proper information about rights, duties and the life of products, consumers will be more inclined to buy higher-quality products.

In Directive 1999/44/EC, a minimum level of consumer protection in the field of guarantees was agreed. However, transparency has not yet been sufficiently secured. The terms of guarantees, and particularly the risks which manufacturers/vendors exclude, are often concealed in the large quantities of small print of which 'terms and conditions' consist. The consumer ought to be able to see at a glance what is covered by the guarantee.

Will the Commission tighten up Directive 1999/44/EC as a follow-up to the new proposal on the Circular Economy, thus requiring greater transparency regarding guarantees?

Producers have no difficulty in estimating the economic life of their products, so it is also perfectly possible to communicate this information, thus making it clear what compliance implies.

What view does the Commission take of compulsory communication of the economic life of products?

Will the Commission, as part of the circular economy, extend the minimum guarantee period and in addition conclude far-reaching binding agreements on the cover afforded to consumer goods by guarantees?