

**Question for written answer E-010705/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Phthalates

Phthalates are chemicals used to make plastics more flexible and malleable.

Because they are toxic, the maximum admissible concentration of this substance in toys and children's products under EU law is 0.1 %.

Phthalates are also contained in medical devices and Directive 2007/47/EC, transposed by an Italian Decree-Law, requires their presence to be indicated, given that those most at risk are premature babies.

Various studies show that these chemicals can produce similar effects to oestrogen hormones, affecting the development of the testes and other genital organs.

Given that the EU-funded Brite-Euram project appears to show that no fully biocompatible substitute plasticisers exist:

- Can the Commission say whether the possibility of eliminating all processes involving the use of this product has been considered?

- If so, how and when might this be achieved?