

**Question for written answer E-013684/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Harmfulness of LEDs

Light-emitting diodes (LED) could constitute 90% of the market by 2020 and are already in use on our roads, in our hospitals, in our schools and in children's toys. Some, such as cold white LEDs and blue LEDs, emit short-wavelength bluish rays which children aged between 8 and 10 find it difficult – or even impossible – to properly absorb.

While the European photo-biological safety standard recommends that exposure to these harmful rays should be limited, especially in the case of young children, as they can prematurely trigger cases of age-related macular degeneration, a 2010 survey by the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety showed that, amazingly, this standard was not being respected.

Most of the LEDs sold in Europe, many of which come from China, fail to comply with the established standards.

Does the Commission plan to step up checks on such goods imported into the EU from third countries?

What means does it plan to use to inform consumers of the risks associated with wholesale use of these LEDs, whose harmfulness has already been proved?