

**Question for written answer E-001039/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

Subject: Standards for noise levels in personal music players

Since 24 January 2012, the standard applicable at national level has been NF EN 60065:2002, as amended, which includes an annex on hearing protection against excessive acoustic pressure caused by personal music players. It is based on a 2008 assessment by the Commission's Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks.

According to the WHO, hearing impairment associated with the overuse of earphones could now be affecting more than 1 billion people, including 360 million who are likely to have irreversible hearing disorders.

In France, according to the French Health Watch Institute (IVS), the percentage of young people aged 18-35 who use earphones for too long and at excessively high volumes has tripled since 2007, with the result that 10 % of people aged under 25 now suffer from chronic hearing loss.

1. Is the Commission considering new campaigns to address the risks to which young people are exposed? What specific measures to protect young people are being considered?
2. Does the Commission want the maximum noise output levels from personal music players and the trigger point for a warning signal which would sound as the maximum level approaches to be lowered?