

**Question for written answer E-001330/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Environmental noise: high-frequency sounds and low humming sounds

As part of the Regulatory Fitness and Performance programme (REFIT), the Commission is currently conducting a public consultation on the application of Directive 2002/49/EC on environmental noise. Yet (according to Written Question E-5149/2009) this Directive ought already to have been revised in 2011. The risks to health from environmental noise are still too often underestimated. In many cases, it involves high and low frequencies which are indeed perceived by a substantial section of the population and which cause harm to health¹.

The World Health Organisation also continues to draw attention to the dangers presented by noise.

Will the Commission extend the scope of the Directive to low humming sounds and high-frequency sounds (as produced, for example, by such cat repellents as Mosquito), concerning which we regularly receive complaints?

¹ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getAllAnswers.do?reference=E-2009-5149&language=NL>
<http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/noise/publications>