

**Question for written answer E-001908/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

Subject: Allergens in cosmetics

After raising the alarm about allergens in cosmetics for babies, the French consumer organisation UFC-Que choisir now reports that cosmetic products for adults, ranging from shampoos, toothpastes, deodorants, face creams and wipes to lip salves and after-shaves, also contain allergens. Some of the products are sold by leading brands and bear reassuring claims such as 'hypoallergenic'. Of the 185 products that UFC-Que choisir found to contain worrying ingredients, 62 contained allergens, the most common of which was the preservative methylisothiazolinone (MIT), which was found in 55 of the products. MIT was declared allergenic in 2013 by the American Contact Dermatitis Society and its use has since been criticised by the NGO Women in Europe for a Common Future and the French health safety agency. Twenty-six of the products contained long-chain parabens. Lastly, eight well-known brands of baby wipes contained phenoxyethanol, a neurotoxic preservative.

1. Would the Commission agree that consumers have not been properly informed about this issue and that some product claims are misleading?
2. Will it be tightening up the rules in this area? How does it intend to ensure that misleading claims are not made for products?