

**Question for written answer E-005368/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Viorica Dăncilă (S&D)**

Subject: Product lifespan

The lifespan of a product affects the economic interests of consumers and manufacturers and has a significant impact on the environment too.

Products with short lifespans need to be replaced more frequently, which means that more must be produced, thereby impacting on resources and waste treatment.

Consequently, extending a product's lifespan will reduce the frequency with which products must be replaced and alleviate the pressures associated with the aforementioned elements. This is why consumers must be better informed about product lifespans so that they are encouraged to buy products which are slightly more expensive but last longer.

One possible way of encouraging consumers to do this is to extend the legal warranty period of products.

How does the Commission plan to cooperate more effectively with the relevant authorities in the Member States on awareness campaigns about product lifespans and with manufacturers in order to avoid the undesirable environmental impact that results from the use of inexpensive, low-quality products?