

**Question for written answer E-007122/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Cătălin Sorin Ivan (S&D)**

Subject: Harmful effects of cadmium

Several European researchers have drawn attention to the harmful effects of cadmium, a chemical element that is extremely dangerous to human health and is present around us.

Cadmium is the metal used to colour soft drink cans bright red. It is used to glue jewellery that has been repaired multiple times and new jewellery is mounted with it. The chemical is also found in cigarette smoke. Cadmium is used in the manufacturing process for batteries that we use in our everyday gadgets.

All these uses continue despite the fact that researchers unanimously link cadmium with cancer, kidney diseases – as the kidneys are the main organ in which the chemical accumulates – and lung diseases. There is no known treatment for cadmium poisoning, and the substance has been banned in the European Union since 2011.

1. Is the Commission aware that a number of producers in the European Union market still use this substance?
2. Given the ban on using substances and metals of this type in the processing and manufacturing of various products or food, what sanctions do people who continue to use them face?
3. What measures can the Commission take to ensure that these substances are no longer used in products placed on the market in the European Union?