

**Question for written answer E-007670/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Jørn Dohrmann (ECR)**

Subject: Food packaging paper containing harmful chemicals

The independent Danish body 'Forbrugerrådet Tænk Kemi' (Consumer Council: Think Chemicals) has tested a number of food packaging paper products. Food packaging paper is treated by the manufacturers with silicon or fluorine-based substances to make the surface grease- and water-repellent.

Fluorine-based substances in particular are very problematic, as they can be endocrine-disruptive, and by definition they come into close contact with foods eaten by children or adults.

Fluorine-based substances are also very harmful to the environment, as they are hard to break down and thus accumulate.

All in all, fluorine-based substances are suspected of being carcinogenic and endocrine-disruptive, and of causing poor sperm quality. The last of these is a problem that is rising sharply in Europe.

Does the Commission agree about the seriousness of this problem?

What initiatives has the Commission undertaken to limit the problem?

What will the Commission do in the future to reduce or remove harmful substances from food packaging paper?