

**Question for written answer E-009268/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lorenzo Fontana (ENF)

Subject: The counterfeiting scourge in Europe

According to data from the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), each year the EU loses some EUR 83 billion in sales and almost 800 000 jobs because of counterfeiting and piracy. The loss in tax revenue is estimated to be EUR 14.3 billion. Many counterfeit products are also dangerous for consumers' health, in particular articles for children, such as games or clothing. Italy is the country most affected by this in the EU, with a counterfeiting turnover of EUR 7 billion (estimates by Censis).

Given the health hazards of these products, their low quality, but above all the serious financial harm being done to the EU economy and the citizens of the Member States, can the Commission say:

- whether it is aware of the above-mentioned data and whether it liaises with the EUIPO on an ongoing basis;
- what action it intends to take to attempt to eliminate the problem of counterfeiting?