

**Question for written answer E-001250/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Conflicts of interest at the Commission: a danger to the public

The Commission has proposed a directive 'on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work' in order to address those risks, the objective being to define limit values for exposure to products that 'cause' (lung, bladder, nasal cavity, etc.) cancer. However, an investigation by the journalist Stéphane Horel has found that 15 of the 22 experts consulted by the Commission are linked to industrial sectors directly affected by the substances they were asked to evaluate.

This directive is intended to protect European workers but clearly the Commission's interests lie elsewhere. A number of associations, such as the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI), have also criticised the proposed values for being too high.

1. On what basis did the Commission involve these experts?
2. Should ethical conditions be put in place to avoid such abuses in future?
3. Does the Commission not agree that it would be preferable to start again using genuinely independent experts?