

**Question for written answer E-006860/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Anneleen Van Bossuyt (ECR)

Subject: Prevention of cancer among fire fighters

Fire safety in buildings is an issue that affects us all. Every day, fire fighters expose themselves to risks in order to rescue our citizens when fires or other accidents occur. We can easily forget that smoke is at least as dangerous as fire; 50% of fatalities are due to inhalation of toxic fumes. The fire brigade is often unavoidably exposed to them, and because fire fighters are exposed more often, they also run a greater risk of long-term effects, e.g. cancer. Often there is no clarity as to the toxicity of products when they catch fire. The existing tests have been found to be inadequate.

The Construction Products Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 laying down harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products and repealing Council Directive 89/106/EEC) is one of the resources for addressing the dangers to our citizens and fire fighters.

How will the Commission improve the protection of our fire fighters, who risk their lives on a daily basis in the interests of our safety?

Will the Commission propose amendments to the Construction Products Regulation so as to introduce better and more realistic testing to establish the toxicity of smoke?