

**Question for written answer E-007328/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Francesc Gambús (PPE)**

Subject: Limit values for elements laid down in Directive 2009/48/EC on the safety of toys

The task of carrying out the scientific study underpinning the limit values for elements in Directive 2009/48/EC on the safety of toys was at the time entrusted by the Commission to the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) on the basis of the latter's credibility and creditworthiness.

The Institute has since acknowledged that its report contained a mathematical – rather than scientific – error which has been drawn to the attention of the Commission on multiple occasions<sup>1</sup>.

Given that the Institute recognised and published its mathematical rather than scientific mistake – which lay at the basis of the extraordinarily low limits established in the Directive – why has this not been taken on board by the Commission and the Directive amended accordingly?

The Commission, based on the principle of avoiding risk to children – a principle which I support – and de facto invoking the precautionary principle without a proven scientific justification, has set extraordinarily low limits for one-time ingestion, despite the fact that the products concerned are treated with bittering agents to deter any hypothetical repeat ingestion. In view of the above, why are these limits far below the limits for foodstuffs, which are ingested on a regular and habitual basis?

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<sup>1</sup> E-006696-16 Ref. Ares(2017)4327020 - 05/09/2017