

**Question for written answer E-000759/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (EFDD)**

Subject: Dangers posed by tattooing ink

In France, 15% of people say that they have a tattoo. In Germany, the figure is 30% among those under 25. Today, most of the tattooing inks used in salons are chemical-based. However, the inks contain 126 substances which are not intended for human use, including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (carbon residues), azoic pigments, heavy metals (nickel, copper) and paraphenylenediamine, an additive causes an allergic reaction in some people and which is banned in France. Doctors who offer tattoo-removal services are increasingly being consulted by patients suffering side-effects, such as allergies, chronic inflammation, increased sensitivity to light or poisoning caused by the mercury used in red inks. The United States has a virtual monopoly on the production of red inks, but carries out no checks on their composition. Inks from China and Asia, which are commonly used in Europe, often contain benzisothiazolinone, an antiseptic which is known to cause allergic skin reactions.

What steps does the Commission plan to take to protect European consumers against the effects of these dangerous substances found in imported tattooing inks?