

**Question for written answer E-002119/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Stricter product information requirements for leather goods

The leather sector is evolving rapidly with the arrival on the market of new products such as plant, pineapple or vegan 'leather'.

Given that leather is generally understood as being of animal origin, the use of the term 'leather' for non-animal or even totally synthetic products would seem to be misleading in a way which is detrimental to consumers.

These designations also give rise to unfair competition for producers who use raw materials of animal origin.

The failure to harmonise leather-related terminology at EU level has created a legal vacuum which is undermining the proper functioning of the internal market.

In order to clarify the classification of leather goods, does the Commission intend to propose a binding definition like that governing milk products, which are necessarily of animal origin (C-422/16 Verband Sozialer Wettbewerb vs TofuTown), including references to ISO and CEN standards?

What is the Commission planning to do to improve the transparency of labelling and the authenticity of leather goods? What about the proposal for origin markings?

The purchasing of raw materials is made more difficult by the imposition of export restrictions on some animal-hide producers outside Europe, and, in spite of the Raw Materials Initiative, the sector continues to be penalised by atypical trade barriers.

What steps does the Commission intend to take to fight these restrictions?