

**Question for written answer E-004865/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (EFDD)

Subject: Presence of irritant substances in new clothes

An expert report published by the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (ANSES) voices alarm after fresh studies into new clothes reveal that, in some cases, they contain chemical substances such as nickel and benzidine in concentrations that can cause allergic reactions. Not only for clothes but also for footwear, ANSES therefore recommends lowering the regulatory minimum values for particular substances (such as chrome 6 in leather), since health effects have been observed below the thresholds concerned. ANSES also recommends reviewing the European classification of substances responsible for skin allergies.

1. Does the Commission intend reviewing that European classification?
2. What measures does the Commission plan to take to inform consumers and reduce their exposure to irritant substances in new clothes?
3. Does the Commission intend stepping up checks on chemical substances present in new clothes, particularly imported new clothes?