

**Question for written answer E-001972/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Vito Bonsignore (PPE)

Subject: Prolonged use of 3D glasses in children under the age of six

There has been increasing use in recent years of the stereoscopic vision system known as 3D vision (literally 3-dimensional vision). First used in cinemas and now increasingly used with the latest generation of consoles and televisions, this technique relies on the use of appropriate glasses to optimise vision.

Given that most of the technological devices that use this visual technique are aimed at teenagers and children, consideration has been given to the possibility of side effects being brought on by prolonged use, especially in those under the age of six.

Some functional disorders have in fact been encountered below this age, although the potential risks and intensity cannot be assessed for the moment because binocular vision is not yet present or is not fully developed in children at such a young age, but also because they may be affected by strabismus, amblyopia or other visual defects. 3D glasses work in such a way that each lens acts differently on the eyes, creating depth which is then reworked by the brain giving a sense of three dimensions. In children, the association and reworking stage is not as developed as in adults; for this reason, scientific studies will only be able to verify possible defects and pathologies once the children are older.

In the meantime, following an opinion given by the Italian Senior Health Council when consulted on this matter, the Italian Ministry of Health, in its circular of 17 March 2010, decided to contraindicate the use of 3D glasses in children under the age of six.

In the absence of scientific studies on possible contraindications:

1. Does the Commission believe, in view of the substantial uncertainty with regard to the use of 3D glasses, that it would be appropriate to support tests aimed at dispelling any doubts about their safety?
2. Will the Commission, however, while awaiting definite scientific results, launch information campaigns encouraging the moderate and controlled use of such devices by the EU public, and especially by young children?
3. Should cases of permanent or temporary damage to children under the age of six be detected, will the Commission introduce a ban at Union level on the use of 3D systems by children under the age of six?