

**Question for written answer E-005888/2012  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Julie Girling (ECR) and Malcolm Harbour (ECR)**

Subject: Sweden's treatment of silver under the Biocidal Products Directive

It has been brought to our attention that the Swedish Environment Minister has been publicly commenting on the assessment of silver for approval under the Biocidal Products Directive. As the rapporteur Member State, Sweden is supposed to be assessing the active substance of silver for approval in an unbiased and scientific manner. However, this does not appear to be the case, and in fact according to the Swedish media the Environment Minister has gone so far as to state that the substance will be prohibited throughout the internal market, at a time when it has not yet gone through the full approval process.

Is the Commission aware of this situation?

Does the Commission consider that the position taken by the Swedish Environment Minister, which is not yet supported by scientific evidence, is appropriate in view of Sweden's role as the rapporteur Member State for this evaluation?

Will the Commission consider reallocating the role of rapporteur for the evaluation of active silver to another Member State?