

**Question for written answer E-001622/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Dan Jørgensen (S&D)

Subject: Refrigerated containers and Regulation (EC) No 1005/2009

Since 2004 it has been illegal to import and place on the European market refrigerated containers that make use of HCFC-141b in their insulation foam.¹

Recently, however, the Commission has been widely criticised in the Danish and European media on the grounds that the law is inadequately enforced and that it is insufficiently clear².

It is claimed that, consequently, demand for this kind of container on the world market has not fallen in the wake of the EU ban on their import and placing on the market. Furthermore there is no sign of refrigerated containers with this gas, which is harmful to the climate, being scrapped, even though 50 000 to 60 000 of them were supposed to be phased out annually in the next few years.

The emission of HCFC141b into the atmosphere is well known to have wide-ranging effects on the climate. As vice-Chair of Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, I therefore find this worrying.

What will the Commission do to find out whether the problems with refrigerated containers using HCFC141b are as extensive as the critics say? What will the Commission do to counter criticism that the legislation is not being enforced, in spite of the fact that – according to the critics – the Commission should have authority to intervene more actively? What will the Commission do to counter the criticism that the legislation is unclear? What legal options exist to make the legislation clearer, e.g. a requirement to phase out all refrigerated containers using HCFC141b, rather than just a ban on importing them and placing them on the market?

¹ See Regulation (EC) No 1005/2009.

² See for example Jyllands-Posten, 5 February 2013, p. 7, and in the Erhverv og Økonomi (Business and Finance) section on 12 February 2013, p. 7.