

**Question for written answer E-003492/2013  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Giuseppe Gargani (PPE)**

Subject: Request for a timetable for the presentation of a draft law on the labelling of leather products

EU legislation on the proper labelling of the composition of leather products is essential to protect consumers from misleading information and to defend SMEs from unfair competition. The tanning industry has made Europe the world leader in the sector, thanks to its great efforts in terms of environmental protection and social responsibility. It is also renowned for its internationalisation and its excellent fashion sense.

On 5 October 2012, the Commission adopted the working document on entitled 'Policy options for the competitiveness of the European fashion industries: where manufacturing meets creativity', which acknowledges this legal vacuum and expresses a commitment to examine the need for – and feasibility of – a draft law on the legitimate use of the term 'leather'.

On 17 January 2013, the European Parliament adopted the resolution on the indication of country of origin for certain products entering the EU from third countries (P7\_TA(2013)0029), which stresses the importance of indicating the country of origin in order to guarantee the competitiveness of European businesses and to protect consumers.

On 1 February 2013, the results were published of the study sponsored by the Commission and carried out by MATRIX into the feasibility and desirability of a labelling system for leather products.

The Italian Parliament has already passed legislation on this matter, adopting Law No 8 of 14 January 2013 setting out new provisions on the use of the terms 'hide', 'leather' and 'fur' and their derivatives or synonyms.

Can the Commission answer the following questions:

- When does it intend to begin the legislative impact assessment?
- What is the timetable for the presentation of a draft law on this issue?