

**Question for written answer E-006339/2013  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Philippe Boulland (PPE)**

Subject: Planned obsolescence in Europe

Planned obsolescence is a practice that aims to reduce the life expectancy or duration of use of a product in order to increase its replacement rate. This practice involves companies, when planning the construction or assembly of products, planning for components to be replaced before long.

The problem is that they are often part of a set of other components in order to make access to those parts difficult during repair, thus making the price higher to the point that the product has to be replaced altogether.

This practice presents two major issues: it undermines the rights of consumers by forcing them to purchase components to repair their equipment prematurely; it is also harmful to the environment as it leads to overconsumption and excessive manufacturing of equipment.

Does the Commission not think that strict rules should be put in place to protect consumers from this lack of information on the longevity of equipment at the point of purchase?

As a measure to protect the environment, could the Commission introduce environmental criteria for products with a limited life expectancy?