

**Question for written answer E-012040/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

María Irigoyen Pérez (S&D)

Subject: Harmonisation of the size labelling system and body dimensions

In September 2013, the Commission published a report on possible new labelling requirements of textile products and on a study on allergenic substances in textile products. This report fulfils the Commission's commitment undertaken in Article 24 of Regulation (EU) No 1007/2011 of 27 September 2011 on textile fibre names and related labelling and marking of the fibre composition of textile products.

This study stresses the importance of the size labelling system for consumers, but they are considered to be familiar with various voluntary systems and, in addition, businesses and public organisations do offer conversion tables. Moreover, the Commission points out that the emphasis should be placed on pursuing and completing ongoing standardisation work and that, therefore, no measures have been laid down whatsoever.

Regrettably, this standardisation work to create a harmonised size designation and coding system, at EU and international level, will still take a long time.

Does the Commission not think that a harmonised system would improve industrial competitiveness, as claimed by many businesses in the sector? Does the Commission not think that a harmonised system would foster consumer confidence in e-commerce, and particularly in cross-border sales?

Is the Commission planning to take any steps to encourage standardisation work?