

**Question for written answer E-005524/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Risks associated with the use of antibacterial soaps

A study in the United States (University of Michigan) has cast a shadow over antibacterial soaps, claiming that the use of these detergents actually places hygiene at risk and significantly increases the specific risk of contracting diseases and infections. The US Food and Drugs Administration had previously issued a warning against these soaps, and had even stated that they could give rise to the emergence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. For this reason, the US agency had decided to conduct a systematic review of the information relating to these products.

In view of the above, can the Commission clarify:

1. whether it is aware of the study;
2. whether it is aware of any other sources which confirm or refute the results of this study;
3. whether it is able to provide any data regarding the distribution of antibacterial soaps on the European market?