

**Question for written answer E-002880/2018/rev.1  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Hugues Bayet (S&D)**

Subject: Controls on the sale of sulphuric acid

Local authorities throughout Europe are reporting an increase in acid attacks. These attacks have many consequences for victims (disfiguration, health problems, etc.) and leave them scarred for life.

According to the international French radio station RFI, experts are attributing the resurgence of such attacks to the ease with which sulphuric acid can be purchased in hardware stores and online. As a weapon it is cheap to obtain and, contrary to knife attacks, acid attacks are not charged as attempted murder in criminal proceedings, but rather as assault, a crime that carries a lighter penalty.

Sulphuric acid is classified as a corrosive substance by the EU. Most corrosive substances, however, are still sold freely in Europe.

- 1) Is the Commission aware of the increase in acid attacks?
- 2) Is there a platform for discussion and exchanges of best practices, where the Member States could work on introducing checks at the point of sale for products of this kind and criminal penalties for acid attacks?