

**Question for written answer E-004406/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Access to acid

Does the Commission share our opinion that we must seriously review how readily available sulphuric acid is to private individuals?

In December 2009, a Belgian citizen was sprayed with acid by her ex-partner. She suffered 3rd and 4th degree burns to her face and part of her body. 'Since that sad day, I have undergone 100 operations. And sadly it's not over. To me, my face still seems horrible and my body will never be the same again.' She has described the product as a 'sexist weapon used by men to destroy women's faces or their entire bodies.' More recently, a criminal threw acid on a cleaner at a branch of a major Belgian retailer in an attempt to extort money from the company. The number of such cases is increasing across Europe.

It is only right that questions are asked about unfettered access to this product, given that sulphuric acid is principally used in the chemical industry.

1. Does the Commission believe that the sale of acid should be regulated for all major retailers?
2. Does the Commission agree with our call for greater traceability of sulphuric acid?