

Question for written answer E-000393/2019
to the Commission
Rule 130
Franck Proust (PPE)

Subject: Controls on dangerous lighters in the EU

Bic, a manufacturer of various consumer products, filed a complaint with the Commission against France and Germany in October 2018 for a lack of compliance controls for lighters imported into the EU. The company claims that a large number of imported lighters do not comply with European standards. According to Bic, lighters are responsible for 30 000 serious accidents per year in the EU, representing a cost to society of EUR 1 billion. BIC had already lodged a complaint against the Netherlands in 2010 and this procedure is still ongoing.

1. Can the Commission confirm the figures on serious accidents quoted by Bic?
2. When does the Commission think it will deliver its initial conclusions regarding the procedure against Germany and France?
3. At what stage is the procedure against the Netherlands and how can the time taken be explained?