

Question for written answer E-004127/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Cindy Franssen (PPE)

Subject: Traceability of chemical substances in the event of serious fires or accidents

Fire brigades regularly come into contact with chemicals whose origin and active properties are unclear, in particular on industrial sites or in the case of accidents involving heavy goods vehicles.

The greatest risk to public health is associated with exposure to smoke. The risk is all the greater since smoke contains many chemicals and especially chemical combinations that are difficult to identify since they result from mixing in combination with high temperatures.

This not only entails serious risks to the safety and health of fire-fighters, but also leads to a lack of clarity about the measures to be taken to ensure the safety and health of local residents.

Manufacturers of chemical agents, on the other hand, have detailed information on the active properties, the necessary precautions to be taken and the possible protective measures against these substances.

1. Does the European Commission think it possible to require mandatory traceability of chemicals back to the producer, for example in the context of the Seveso Directive, in order to ensure that fire-fighters are able to refer to the specialised information available from the producer?
2. In the event of major disasters in border areas, it is crucial that there is good coordination between Member States. What measures will the European Commission take to improve coordination on the traceability of chemicals?