

**Question for written answer E-005355/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Emmanuel Maurel** (The Left)

**Subject:** Will the product environmental footprint (PEF) method for apparel and footwear measure up to the net zero by 2050 strategy?

The Commission decided to launch a pilot phase to test the PEF method on a number of product categories as early as 2013. It is now sitting in on debates on the development of product environmental footprint category rules (PEFCRs), and will decide on them in December 2022.

The Commission is undoubtedly aware that the way in which the PEF is calculated has been a subject of great controversy during the debates. How can we be sure that the indicators developed are objective with stakeholders having such diverging interests? We are concerned about the influence that actors from the fast-fashion industry – seeking to minimise their carbon footprint and continue to pollute and exploit natural resources – could have on the calculation method. Without a negative rating, they could compromise the Commission's net zero by 2050 target, as fossil fuel-based synthetic fibres are set to account for 73% of all production by 2030.

1. Can the Commission influence the debates even before the proposal for the PEFCRs?
2. How does it intend to penalise the use of microplastics (5kg of polyester fabric can release up to 6 million microplastic fibres in one wash)?
3. Does it intend to better promote the natural fibre sector, and in particular life cycle circularity?