

**Question for written answer E-000136/2022  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Billy Kelleher (Renew)**

Subject: Environmental impact of the ink cartridge market

Printer ink is relatively expensive in comparison to the price of printers. This is because the majority of printer manufacturers sell their printers at a loss that is then recouped from the sale of ink cartridges. Moreover, the sale of third-party or generic cartridges at a competitive price is limited as printer manufacturers frequently update their software to prevent them from being compatible.

The Commission has previously considered this issue from a competition-law perspective and the European courts have ruled that printer manufactures do not hold a dominant position in the market.

1. Has the Commission looked at this matter from an environmental perspective?
2. Does it agree that the situation where a new printer is cheaper than an ink refill encourages waste and is harmful to the environment?
3. Does it agree that the current obstacles to new entrants to the ink cartridge market limit innovation and the incentive to create more efficient and longer-lasting cartridges that could reduce waste?