

Question for written answer E-003705/2023/rev.1
to the Commission
Rule 138
Maria Spyraiki (PPE)

Subject: Protection against hazardous chemical compounds

According to a recent survey by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), one in five consumer items available in the EU is hazardous because they contain excessive levels of harmful substances; electrical goods show the highest percentage overshoot at 52%, followed by toys at 24%, sports goods at 18% and fashion goods at 15%. Indeed, a study found that lead is responsible for about 5 million deaths worldwide each year, and for cognition and memory problems in millions of children below the age of five, while cadmium causes cancer, mutations, and malignant pancreatic tumours.¹

In view of this, and given the higher overshoot of permitted limits in goods of 'unknown' origin' (22%) or with a country of origin outside the Member States of the European Economic Area (21%):

1. Will the Commission say what measures are being taken to ensure that products imported from non-EU countries comply with Union standards, and that fair competition is maintained, especially as regards enforcement of the CLP and REACH Regulations?
2. In light of ECHA's findings for the prevention of potential consequences, is consideration being given to the possibility of introducing measures to tighten checks on imports and impose relevant sanctions on importers?
3. What information does the Commission have at its disposal regarding imports of hazardous products, particularly into Greece?

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¹ <https://www.in.gr/2023/12/15/in-science/perivallon-b-science/sos-gia-ximika-se-dimofili-proionta/>