

ORAL QUESTION H-0501/04
for Question Time at the part-session in January 2005
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Ioannis Varvitsiotis
to the Commission

Subject: Risks associated with air fresheners

A recent study carried out by the European Consumers' Organisation (BEUC) on 76 air fresheners from five Member States of the European Union showed that these products contained substances hazardous to health.

More specifically, the air in an area where air fresheners are used contains substances which irritate the respiratory system, phthalates, allergens and carcinogens.

These products, which are sold to 'purify' indoor areas, in fact pollute them more thus endangering those exposed to them, including vulnerable groups such as pregnant women and chronic disease sufferers.

To what extent is the Commission aware of this problem? Does it intend to take more specific measures in respect of the substances contained in air fresheners and of the producers' obligations to make known and warn of the presence of those substances? Will it also take action on the advertising of such products, which provides consumers with misleading information?

Tabled: 02.12.2004
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