

**Question for written answer P-009551/2011
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Emilie Turunen (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Information requirement in the REACH Regulation

BEUC (the European Consumers' Organisation) recently conducted a survey¹ in 9 EU Member States, including Denmark, to test whether a number of selected retailers are complying with the information or 'right to know' requirement incumbent upon them under Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (the REACH Regulation). This requirement obliges all retailers or suppliers to provide the consumer with information about substances on the so-called 'candidate list' within 45 days, if the consumer has requested such information.

The BEUC survey was conducted by consumers sending letters to 25 selected retailers in each of the 9 countries inquiring whether a product contains substances from the REACH candidate list. The letters were sent to large shops offering online sales, and the products covered by the survey included baby bottles, raincoats, rubber boots, napkins and children's toothbrushes.

The results of the survey are very discouraging. The vast majority of retailers did not answer on time or gave unsatisfactory replies. In Denmark, for example, only 4 out of 24 provided full answers within 45 days and, as a general rule, problems arose with replies in all countries.

With reference to this survey, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Does the Commission agree that the 'right to know' requirement in the REACH Regulation is essential for consumer safety as it gives them the opportunity to avoid products that contain chemicals, and that it is therefore a principle that must be enforced?
2. What specific measures does the Commission intend to take to make sure that consumers are in future able to find out which chemicals there are in products when they ask retailers to provide this information ?
3. What conclusions will the Commission draw if the national authorities in the individual Member States do not monitor compliance with the 'right to know' requirement?

¹ <http://docshare.beuc.org/Common/GetFile.asp?ID=41851&mfd=off&LogonName=Guesten>