

**Question for written answer P-002706/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Carl Schlyter (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Nanosilver in the Commission's promotional products

In view of the strategy for reducing the use of antibiotics and antibacterial agents, I am surprised to see that the Commission has produced promotional items (pens) that contain nanosilver. Use of this type of product in the Commission's own promotional material runs counter to the Commission's strategy.

Moreover, the pens are said to be green and environmentally friendly because they do not contain DEHP, phthalates and decaBDE. It is positive that the pens in question contain fewer dangerous chemicals but it is highly misleading to advertise products containing nanosilver as environmentally friendly and shocking that the Commission makes use of false arguments.

It is also questionable for the Commission to emphasise that the pens do not contain decaBDE (flame retardant). Is it usual for pens on the EU market to contain the flame retardant decaBDE? If this is not the case, mentioning it is, to say the least, misleading.

1. If it is usual for pens to contain decaBDE, does the Commission intend to do something about this?
2. Will the Commission withdraw these pens?
3. Will the Commission develop a strategy for promotional products in its environment policy, to prevent this or a similar situation occurring again?