

**Question for written answer P-005252/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Jörg Leichtfried (S&D)**

Subject: Built-in obsolescence of products

Consumers in Europe are becoming increasingly impatient with the built-in obsolescence (or vulnerability to wear-and-tear and even built-in flaws) of some products, in particular electronic goods or domestic appliances. Some manufacturers deliberately underestimate the life of their technical products: this sends the wrong signal in terms of environmental and consumer protection.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. Is it aware of the problem of built-in obsolescence?
2. Does it have at its disposal any studies or research findings on this topic?
3. Does it have any plans to improve environmental and consumer protection in this connection?