

Question for written answer E-001611/2024

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Presence of dangerous substances in fast fashion clothing from third countries and the safety of European consumers

A survey conducted by the consumer magazine *Oko-test*¹ in Germany recently found highly toxic substances (such as antimony, dimethylformamide, lead, cadmium, banned phthalates, naphthalene and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) to be present in many items of clothing from 'fast fashion' chainstores.

Various types of clothing would seem to contain dangerous substances. More specifically, research appears to have shown pairs of women's sandals to contain levels of harmful chemicals well above the limits set by the EU's REACH legislation.

These tests have raised significant doubts as to the quality of products manufactured outside the EU and sold in 'fast fashion' chainstores and hence posing a substantial risk to the health and safety of European consumers.

In view of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of any potential breaches of REACH legislation by low-cost products manufactured outside Europe?
2. What additional measures will it take to check items of clothing from third countries entering the European market so as to safeguard EU citizens and consumers against potential exposure to harmful substances contained in clothing products?

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¹ https://www.oekotest.de/kosmetik-wellness/Test-zeigt-Shein-Mode-teilweise-voller-giftiger-Chemikalien_14755_1.html.