

**Question for written answer E-015722/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Major risks of electronic cigarettes

The adverse health effects of smoking have triggered a search for alternatives, most recently e-cigarettes. Despite the absence of known harmful ingredients, such as tar and nicotine, electronic cigarettes are still a major risk to the health of millions of people. According to a recent survey by the Harvard University, substances such as diacetyl, acetoin and Acetylpropionyl (2,3-pentanedione) used to give e-cigarettes taste and odour are particularly dangerous and can cause lung diseases¹, the most common of which is known as 'Popcorn Lung' characterised by constant scarring and infection in the respiratory tract. Given that e-cigarette technology has been lauded as a healthy alternative to the harmful effects of traditional cigarettes, it has not yet been subjected to strict scrutiny, with the result that the general public is by and large unaware of the risks.

In view of this:

- Is the Commission aware of the harmful effects arising from the widespread use of electronic cigarettes?
- What action will it take to inform citizens about the risks involved, while at the same time imposing restrictions on the use of hazardous substances by manufacturers?

¹ <http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2015/12/popcorn-lung-seen-in-e-cigarette-smokers/>