

**Question for written answer E-006715/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Misuse of terms such as 'leather' and 'hide'

The EU shares responsibility for consumer protection with its Member States. According to Articles 12 and 169 TFEU, the EU's consumer protection policy seeks to ensure a high level of protection for consumers and to promote their right to information, without undermining other European policies, such as the protection of the internal market and the Union's industrial fabric.

European consumers are being misled by the proliferation of synthetic products which, although not genuine, are often labelled with terms like 'leather' or 'hide'. Most of these products are made outside the EU, thereby introducing an imbalance in the internal market and putting European industry at a competitive disadvantage.

In view of this:

Is the Commission considering devising a regulatory framework to prevent the misuse of terms such as 'leather' and 'hide', thereby stemming its rapid spread? Is the Commission considering developing clear rules for the labelling of such items, so as to distinguish genuine leather goods from those made of synthetic or alternative materials? Does the Commission intend to organise or fund more effective customs checks to stop synthetic materials wrongly labelled with these terms from entering and circulating throughout the single market?