

**Question for written answer E-008969/2011
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Vladko Todorov Panayotov (ALDE)

Subject: Parabens

Although parabens have been in use for a long time in many cosmetics as a preservative, there is some controversy regarding their safety. Some preliminary research shows small deposits of parabens in breast cancer tumours and that they cause estrogenic activity. Considering these health risks, does the Commission have information regarding whether or not parabens will continue to be allowed in their current 0.4% (single ester) to 0.8% (mixture of esters) concentration under the new Cosmetics Directive (Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 of 2009)?