

**Question for written answer E-007948/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Brian Crowley (ECR)**

Subject: Dangerous plastics and their environmental impact

Scientific evidence has shown that dangerous plastics, such as micro-bead plastics, are disruptive to human health and the environment. Micro-plastics from consumer products such as exfoliating personal care products, toothpastes and cosmetics tend not to be filtered out during sewage treatment and end up in rivers, lakes and oceans. If ingested in large quantities by marine fauna, such micro-plastics, and the chemical additives they contain, have the potential to contaminate the food chain.

1. Following on from its green paper on plastic waste, could the Commission outline its next steps in tackling plastic waste?
2. Earlier this year Parliament called for the most dangerous plastics, such as micro-bead plastics, to be phased out of the market or banned outright by 2020. Does the Commission intend to make micro-plastics a targeted waste stream? Will the Commission consider phasing out or banning micro-plastics in consumer products?
3. The latest United Nations Environmental Programme Year Book recommended that it is necessary to fill knowledge gaps regarding marine organisms which ingest micro-plastics and the dangers this represents for marine biodiversity and the food chain. Will the Commission consider targeted research under the Horizon 2020 programme in this regard?