Question for written answer E-008934/2015 to the Commission Rule 130 Olga Sehnalová (S&D)

Subject: Bisphenol A in items intended for daily use by children

Bisphenol A (BPA) is a chemical compound frequently used in consumer goods. Until recently, it was also used in baby bottles, but tests have shown that the BPA in the plastic can contaminate the contents and enter the human body when they are consumed. There is evidence linking BPA with serious health problems.

EU law forbids the use of BPA in baby bottles, but some countries (France and Sweden, for example) have extended the ban to other children's products (dummies, teething rings, etc.) and all packaging which comes into contact with food.

The Czech consumer organisation dTEST, a member of the European consumer organisation BEUC, found 200 micrograms of BPA per kilogram in one brand of dummies.

At the beginning of 2015, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published its opinion on the risks to public health posed by BPA in food products, stating that BPA poses no health risk to consumers in any age group.

In the Commission's view, in the light of the EFSA's opinion is it still possible for the Member States to extend the ban on the use of BPA to other consumer goods intended for daily use by children?

Is the contradictory information on the possible effects of BPA on the human body consistent with the precautionary principle – the purpose of which is to protect the health of EU citizens?

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