

**Question for written answer E-007861/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Crumb rubber pellets in artificial turf

The Dutch news programme Zembla recently revealed that black crumb rubber pellets spread on artificial turf may possibly cause cancer. Crumb rubber pellets are made from shredded tyres that could potentially release carcinogenic substances such as PAHs. These may be dangerous if they enter the body through a small wound or if swallowed.

In the Netherlands, this report has led to some football matches being cancelled, and questions were raised in Belgium as well. There is, therefore, a need for an unambiguous scientific investigation into whether or not such crumb rubber pellets are carcinogenic. Moreover, Belgian public health spokesperson, Jan Eyckmans, says in an article in De Standaard that Europe is currently investigating the matter. We would like to ask the following questions:

1. Is the Commission aware of the situation as described above?
2. Is it true that Europe has already started an investigation into the alleged carcinogenic nature of crumb rubber pellets?
3. What further action will the Commission be taking to clarify the matter?