

Question for written answer E-002172/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)

Subject: The use of preservatives in cosmetic products

Preservatives are important in cosmetic products as they protect consumers from harmful pathogens which would otherwise find their way into everyday cosmetics. However, preservatives used in cosmetics in high concentrations may cause allergic reactions and are considered the main cause of rashes, irritations and reddening, and generally the undesirable effects of using cosmetics.

Cosmetic products are regulated at European level to ensure consumer safety and the integrity of the internal market. It appears, however, that restrictions introduced in recent years (including rules brought in in September 2014) to protect consumers against potentially harmful preservatives could, in some cases, have the opposite effect because removing certain groups of preservatives from cosmetic products could facilitate and speed up the development of mould, fungi and bacteria, making them even more harmful to people who use them. In addition, the trend for preservative-free cosmetics means that consumers have come to fear everything they contain.

Has the Commission undertaken any research to test whether the applicable limits for preservatives in cosmetics are actually justified, and if not, does it intend to? What impact do the existing regulations have on the EU cosmetics market?