

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0046/01  
by Ursula Schleicher (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: L-cysteine from human hair

The Commission's answer of 28 November 2000 to my question P-3343/00<sup>1</sup> states that it is currently looking into whether a Commission Directive to amend No. 416 of Annex II (a proposal for which is given) by adapting Directive 76/768/EEC<sup>2</sup> to technical progress is feasible. I am grateful to the Commission for the detailed answer. Unfortunately, no answer was given to my first question, which was as follows: 'Did the Commission take ethical aspects as well as scientific ones into account in its consideration of this derogation?'

In the light of the Commission's answer, I would reformulate this question as follows:

Does the Commission take ethical aspects into account in its consideration of whether the existing directive can be modified?

One reason for the existing ban on producing L-cysteine from human hair was the risk of transmitting Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease and certain virus diseases.

In the light of the most recent findings on BSE and the uncertainty as to how Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease is transmitted, does the Commission really think it is responsible to water down the ban?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 262, 27.9.1976, p. 169