

**Question for written answer E-002231/2014
to the Commission
Rule 117
Mariya Gabriel (PPE)**

Subject: Public consultation on the proposed changes to Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 on cosmetic products

On 13 February, the Commission announced that a public consultation would be launched on the proposed changes to the Regulation on cosmetic products, and that this would continue until 14 May. On the basis of the opinion issued by the Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS), the Commission has imposed a ban on three allergenic substances, and also decided to include certain additional allergenic substances and extracts in Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009, requiring that these be individually listed on the packaging of the cosmetic product concerned when they exceed a certain concentration. Among these additional substances and extracts are geraniol, which is a basic ingredient of rose oil, linalol, which is a basic ingredient of lavender oil, and rose oil and lavender oil themselves. At the same time, the Commission has not provided for any concrete measures concerning the 12 individual chemical substances (including chemical geraniol and linalol) and 8 natural extracts described as being of particular concern, and for which the SCCS has recommended that concentration limits be introduced. In its information note, the Commission states that 'further scientific work is needed' to establish safe concentration limit values for these chemicals. Bulgaria accounts for 40% of world exports of rose oil and is the world's leading exporter of lavender, and such restrictions will adversely affect Bulgarian producers.

Can the Commission therefore state:

whether it can scale back the threshold value from 0.001% of 'leave-on' products and 0.01% of 'rinse-off' products, along with the frequency with which that threshold may be exceeded, for products containing rose oil and lavender oil or their ingredients geraniol and linalol?

whether it has any information on how indicating additional substances on the label will impact on rose oil and lavender oil producers?

whether it is considering setting safe concentration limits for the chemical substances and extracts the SCCS considers to be of particular concern, and when more details and results can be expected from the scientific work which the Commission considers should continue?