

**Question for written answer E-003915/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Michèle Rivasi (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: REACH restrictions on tampons

Safety matters relating to feminine hygiene products and tampons are covered by Directive 2001/95/EC on general product safety. Pursuant to that directive, manufacturers are required to ensure that only safe products are placed on the market. The REACH Regulation bans the use of certain dangerous chemicals in feminine hygiene products on the grounds that they are toxic.

In May 2016, in its answer to question E-001709/2016, the Commission stated that it would consider imposing further use restrictions under REACH if the presence of chemicals in tampons were to be shown to pose a health risk to consumers.

A documentary broadcast in France in April 2017 revealed that between 20 and 30 potentially toxic chemical components had been found in six of the biggest-selling brands of tampon. In August 2016, the French State Secretariat for Consumer Affairs carried out tests on 10 different tampons available on the market; all of them contained dioxin. Other studies have revealed the presence of halogenated-derivative, phthalate and glyphosate residues, among others, in tampons.

What additional use restrictions does the Commission plan to implement in this area?