

**Question for written answer E-006117/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Claude Rolin (PPE)

Subject: Harmful substances in lip balms

A recent survey carried out by the 'Association des Consommateurs Test-Achats' indicates a risk to health due to the use of lip balms.

Substances derived from hydrocarbons, which are present in mineral oils, such as mineral oil aromatic hydrocarbons (MOAH), may cause cancer, and the accumulation of mineral oil saturated hydrocarbons (MOSH) in the body may cause the formation of tumours in the lymph glands, liver or spleen. On average, consumers apply 57 mg per day of balm to their lips, part of which is ingested. Moreover, most balms contain MOAH and MOSH, whose presence is not indicated on the packaging of the products.

Why is the use of these harmful substances tolerated? Will the competent authorities impose a safety limit at European level in the near future?