

**Question for written answer E-001121/2019**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Michael Cramer (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Use of creosote as a wood preservative in the European Union

The wood preservative creosote is a Category 1B carcinogen as well as a PBT and vPvB substance, i.e. it is known to be very persistent, very bioaccumulative and toxic.

According to the list of biocidal products authorised in Germany published by the Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (BAuA), in product-type 8, creosote-based products are allowed exclusively for impregnating wood and solid wood in industrial plants in order to produce railway sleepers for industrial and professional users. It should be noted that, especially on warm summer days, creosote gives off a very noticeable smell when directly exposed to sunlight.

However, in Germany, for example in the district of Wittmund, fence posts made of wood impregnated with creosote are used on dykes on the North Sea.

The wood preservative can be seen to weather relatively quickly on the surface of the wood, and the degradation products seep into the ground.

On what legal basis are the importation and use of creosote-impregnated wood permitted in Germany for purposes other than the construction of railway lines?

Does the Commission consider that railway lines built on creosote-impregnated sleepers pose a threat to local residents, pedestrians and cyclists?

Is there any evidence of soil contamination when creosote gets into the soil from the surface of the wood, and what does the Commission intend to do to speed up the introduction of more environmentally friendly impregnating agents?