

**Question for written answer E-004550/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Massimiliano Salini (PPE)

Subject: Restriction of microplastics in cosmetic products

In January 2019, the European Chemicals Agency proposed an EU-wide restriction and established how the use of intentionally added microplastics may be justified in certain sectors for a transitional period.

Doubts have been raised about whether the chemical alternatives to these polymers, used safely in today's cosmetic 'leave-on' and 'rinse-off' applications, will be able to provide the same levels of consumer safety and performance as those currently in use. This is particularly relevant given that EU and US polymer suppliers have indicated that no biodegradable technology replacements currently exist.

Can the Commission explain how it intends to guarantee that new chemical alternatives provide an acceptable level of consumer safety and performance, in view of the difficulties in finding adequate chemical substances to replace microplastics?