

**Question for written answer E-000805/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Lukas Mandl (PPE)

Subject: ECHA proposal to ban pigments in tattoos

The European Chemicals Agency has been mandated by the Commission to draw up a regulatory proposal for tattooists concerning pigments. There are concerns that the ban on the Green 7 (CI74260) and Blue 15 (CI74160) pigments are not fact-based and might have a negative impact on consumer safety. There is currently no high-quality substitute for these two pigments. A ban would result in a loss of colour of up to 66%. True-colour tattoos such as nipple reconstructions or scar pigmentation would no longer be possible. A large proportion of consumers would most probably seek solutions which are illegal or look to non-EU countries for help.

1. What is the scientific rationale for banning the Green 7 (CI74260) and Blue 15 (CI74160) pigments?
2. If such a ban were to result in large numbers of people seeking tattoos having the procedure done outside the EU, what would the Commission do to prevent tattoos which pose a health risk being undertaken outside the EU or to prevent domestic businesses from being forced to operate illegally?
3. Does the Commission envisage compensation payments for the tattoo businesses and their staff thus affected in order to offset the resultant loss of income and any additional investment which might be needed?