

**Question for written answer E-000415/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Use of recycled tyres in children's playgrounds and artificial turf fields

Rubber crumb from recycled tyres is often used in children's playgrounds, as well as in artificial turf fields.

However, recycled tyre rubber contains numerous toxic chemicals which can be hazardous to the environment and to human health, in particular to children.

In 2017, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)¹ concluded that recycled rubber granules used as infill present 'at most a very low level of concern', noting that players' exposure to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, heavy metals and phthalates was very limited.

Given the lack of scientific certainties on exposure to dangerous chemicals included in recycled tyres, the precautionary principle should apply and the use of rubber from recycled tyres in playgrounds and sports fields should be banned. Recycling should not take priority over safety, therefore the recycling of plastics with hazardous additives and components should not be allowed.

1. What steps is the Commission taking to ensure that sports pitches and playgrounds are safe?
2. Is the Commission tackling the issue of hazardous chemicals ending up in recycled products?
3. Is the Commission planning to assess the health effects of the exposure, especially of young children, to a mixture of substances and chemicals, and to make regulatory proposals accordingly?

¹ https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13563/annex-xv_report_rubber_granules_en.pdf