

**Question for written answer E-001219/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Tattoo ink – when the EU endangers European people's health

Like photography, tattoos capture memories and emotions. They are visible, decorative designs that Europeans have become particularly fond of over the years. It is estimated that today almost 100 million Europeans have a tattoo. As well as being indelible, tattoos carry significant health risks.

The inks used contain harmful pigments which, once embedded in the skin, penetrate the body.

Only 5 of the 20 inks tested in a lab by UFC-Que Choisir, a French consumer group, complied with the standards in place.

C.I. 74260, C.I. 73915, isothiazolinone, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and many other dangerous substances were found in inks available on the European market.

In total, 75% of the inks contain harmful substances and one in three contains prohibited dyes. This means that the risk of infection is omnipresent. Worse still, the risk of transmitting a virus through blood is even greater.

How will the Commission encourage tattoo professionals to comply with Regulation (EU) 2020/2081 of 14 December 2020, imposing further restrictions on substances and pigments found in tattoo inks?