

**Question for written answer E-002694/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Jutta Paulus** (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Product labelling and use of squalene

Squalene is often used as an excipient in lubricants and cosmetics and also in the production of adjuvants (substances which enhance the effect of vaccines). It can be obtained from plants but is found in higher concentrations and in a purer form in fish, in particular in sharks' livers. Sharks are therefore a favoured source of squalene. Shark species with large livers and correspondingly large quantities of squalene are under threat of extinction as a result of shark fishing, which is for the most part illegal.

1. How is it ensured in the EU that the squalene used in cosmetics and vaccines does not come from endangered species such as the tope shark or the basking shark, which are particularly prized for squalene on account of their size but the catching of which is expressly forbidden under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) 2019/124, and how can this be appreciated by consumers?
2. Is it permissible for squalene from shark liver oil to be marketed in the EU as a food supplement, and if so, why?
3. Can the possibility that squalene from sharks' livers is used for vaccine manufacture in the EU be ruled out?