

**Question for written answer E-004098/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Chemicals strategy for sustainability: taking account of the specific characteristics of natural products and lavender essential oils

The Commission has published a 'chemicals strategy for sustainability'. The new rules are to classify all molecules placed on the market using a new risk-assessment method that takes no account of the complexity and specific characteristics of natural products and essential oils.

As a result, natural products such as lavender could end up on a blacklist of 'dangerous' products.

These draft new rules look set to threaten the very existence of the lavender and lavandin (hybrid lavender) industry.

France's expertise in lavender production is acknowledged throughout the world: it is one of the reasons why so many tourists flock to Provence. What is more, no fewer than 26 000 French workers make their living from lavender.

Lavender essential oil is distilled using steam and contains no chemicals. The data the Commission is using are based on laboratory tests that do not distinguish between synthetic and natural molecules.

These time-honoured techniques are under threat from a bureaucratic approach that has absolutely no basis in reality.

Is the Commission intending to take into account the specific characteristics of natural products in general and of essential lavender oils in particular?