

**Question for written answer E-004743/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The potential hazards of long-term face mask wearing

Given that there are different rules on long-term face mask wearing for the general public in different EU countries¹²³, how is the Commission monitoring the implementation of EU regulations and the accompanying activities of the EU regulatory agencies related to the potential hazards of and the harm to the health of EU inhabitants posed by these rules⁴⁵?

1. What are the exact measures in place for regular quality control and assessment of these products' known and unknown chemical contents (particularly surgical face masks), which are imported by the EU⁶⁷⁸ or produced within the EU and sold to EU inhabitants so they can comply with the rules?
2. What exact sanctions exist for importers and producers and what reimbursement mechanisms are there for health injuries suffered by end users due to persistent inhalation of harmful substances, i.e. (1) 2-butanone-oxime-blocked diisocyanates; (2) polyfluorinated substances; (3) catalysts from the mask production process including pyrrole, caprolactam and surfactants; (4) other potential carcinogens or toxic substances including formaldehyde and aniline; (5) nanoparticles (cobalt, lead, etc.) or unknown artificial fragrances⁹¹⁰¹¹¹²¹³?
3. Based on exactly what documents, independent scientific evidence or risk assessments has the Commission estimated the real health risk of exposure to potentially hazardous chemicals from the long-term mask wearing imposed on EU residents?

¹ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1114375/wearing-a-face-mask-outside-in-european-countries/>

² <https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/which-countries-are-requiring-face-masks>

³ <https://humansarefree.com/2020/08/netherlands-sweden-face-masks-pointless.html>

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/health/human-use/legal-framework_en

⁵ <https://www.gmp-compliance.org/guidelines/gmp-guideline/eu-gmp-chapter-6-quality-control>

⁶ <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/05/210504112637.htm>

⁷ <https://www.ecotextile.com/2021040127603/dyes-chemicals-news/exclusive-chemical-cocktail-found-in-face-masks.html>

⁸ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/masks-early-pulmonary-toxicity-quebec-schools-daycares-1.5966387>

⁹ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412021002798>

¹⁰ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1257642/>

¹¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2322933/>

¹² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8072811/>

¹³ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0048969720338006?via%3Dihub>