

**Question for written answer E-005603/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Clara Aguilera (S&D)

Subject: New limits for chromium and vanadium and the implications for manufacture of fertilisers from ferrous slag

Ferrous slag produced as a by-product of steelmaking has traditionally been used as a fertiliser. In making good use of a material that would normally be discarded, this fits in well with the criteria for the circular economy.

The industry is concerned about the limits being set for chromium and vanadium in the draft version of the delegated act presented by DG GROW as they will, in the industry's opinion, prevent lime fertilisers from being sold on the single market. Furthermore, the equivalent quantity of silt would be replaced as a result by natural silt from new quarries established solely for this purpose.

As this departs from the rules of Annex I PFC of Regulation 2019/1009, I would like to know the following:

1. What has changed compared to how these by-products were regarded previously? What is the reason for these new limits?
2. How can a step like this be consistent with the strategy on the circular economy and use of resources?