

Question for written answer E-001530/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Nicola Beer (Renew)

Subject: REACH rules

Rubber for tyres contains polycyclic-aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which are also found in all recycled products made using rubber from tyres. The maximum PAH content permitted in consumer products made from rubber is laid down in Clauses 5 and 6 of Entry 50 of Annex XVII to the REACH Regulation.

The precautionary principle was used as the basis for current PAH limit values. No account was taken of how much PAH is actually emitted by these materials and so could as a consequence have an effect on human health. Scientific research by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) confirms that migration of PAHs from rubber products based on old tyres is minimal.

REACH rules provide for Entry 50 to be reviewed – in the light of new scientific information, including with regard to the migration of PAHs from the articles referred to therein – by 27 December 2017.

Moreover, in October 2020 the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) produced a report on the current scientific position on PAH rules in Entry 50. In the report the ECHA recommended that a risk assessment be conducted to determine whether a migration limit could be set in addition to, or as an alternative to, the content limit. However the Commission has not as yet issued the ECHA with a mandate to conduct a risk assessment.

1. Does the Commission intend to follow up on the ECHA's recommendation to conduct a risk assessment?
2. Why has the Commission not yet issued the ECHA with a mandate to conduct a risk assessment?
3. When will the Commission take on decision on this?