

**Question for written answer E-003111/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Cristina Maestre Martín De Almagro (S&D)

Subject: Revision of legislation on essential oils in connection with the CLP and REACH regulations

The Commission intends to publish its review of the CLP and REACH regulations in the coming months. According to initial information on this proposal, it is envisaged to include essential oils, which have hitherto been regarded as natural complex substances, as potential 'hazardous substances'. This new designation will serve to develop a generalised classification unfairly labelling skin sensitisers – the use and production of which have an age-old history – as harmful substances. These oils are also processed using an intrinsic composition of natural molecules, without any chemical addition justifying their categorisation as hazardous substances.

Aromatic plants constitute a vital sector in countries such as Bulgaria, Spain, France and Italy, among others. In Spain alone in 2020, the area cultivated for such crops amounted to 23 070 hectares producing 74 073 tonnes. In other words, it is an important sector that generates jobs and one which is vital in those regions where these crops are grown.

Against this backdrop:

Does the Commission intend to prohibit the use of skin sensitisers in the review of the current legislation, thereby punishing and condemning the essential oils sector in Europe through an unfair and generalised classification?