

**Question for written answer E-002525/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Annika Bruna (ID)

Subject: Making it mandatory at EU level to fit washing machines with a microplastic filter

France recently notified the Commission of a decree on the technical specifications for the microplastic filters that all washing machines will have to be fitted with in future¹.

As stated in the notification, plastic water pollution is one 21st century's most critical environmental and health challenges:

- on the one hand, microplastics can be ingested by fauna, thus exposing them to toxicological (as they are endocrine disruptors) and biological risks (injury and ulcers, false feeling of fullness);
- on the other hand, they disrupt the food chain to such an extent that they can have carcinogenic or endocrine-disrupting effects on humans.

Fitting new washing machines with filters would reduce the spread of plastic microfibres in the environment.

Would the Commission consider making this an EU-wide obligation?

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¹ <https://technical-regulation-information-system.ec.europa.eu/en/notification/24527>