

**Question for written answer E-002686/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Roman Haider (ID)

Subject: Harmful substances in paper and bamboo straws

A Belgian study¹ has demonstrated that paper and bamboo straws in particular – often used in place of plastic straws, which have been banned by the EU since 2021 – contain substances harmful to health, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). What is more, straws that contain PFAS are no more sustainable or environmentally friendly than plastic straws, given that it is very difficult to break these substances down².

1. Was the Commission aware of these facts before the ban entered into force and were they included in the impact assessment on the ban on plastic straws?
2. How is the Commission planning to prevent straws from being made with substances that are harmful to health and the environment?
3. Is the Commission considering a total ban on straws?

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¹ <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/19440049.2023.2240908>

² <https://futurezone.at/science/papierstrohhalm-bambusstrohhalm-umwelt-gesundheit-pfas-studie-plastik/402569252>