Priority question for written answer P-002730/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Essential oils

Essential oils are natural substances extracted by a simple process from plants – natural and
tangible agricultural resources. This sector is active in several Member States (such as Germany,
Bulgaria, Spain, France, Italy and the Netherlands), and in France it provides 9 000 direct jobs and 17
000 indirect jobs. In recent years, these products have been unfairly included in the scope of the EU
chemicals regulations REACH and CLP.

Essential oils are made up of several hundred compounds and their composition can vary according
to the geographical origin of the plant, the season, the method of extraction, etc., which makes it
technically very difficult to analyse each and every component. The only way to identify any potential
harmful effects is to analyse them as a whole.

Can the Commission say whether and how it will take account of the specific composition of essential
oils in the CLP Regulation to prevent them from being incorrectly classified and banned because of
the presence of one or two components considered to be among ‘the most harmful chemicals’ (as
declared in the Chemicals Strategy For Sustainability), despite the fact that in the vast majority of
cases they can be produced and used in a completely safe manner and in accordance with the
existing rules?