

Question for written answer E-002644/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Biljana Borzan (S&D)

Subject: Implementation and enforcement of the ban on rubber granules on sports fields

In 2021, the Commission adopted Regulation (EU) 2021/1199, which limits the concentration of eight polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) in granules and mulches used as infill material on artificial turf pitches. Additionally, in 2023, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) supported a proposal for a complete ban on the intentional use of microplastics, including rubber granules, with a transition period lasting until 2031.

However, there are concerns that these restrictions are poorly enforced in certain Member States, that PAH content in infill materials is not being properly monitored, and that new pitches are still being installed with materials that may pose health risks, particularly for children.

1. How does the Commission monitor the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2021/1199 in Member States, and are there mechanisms in place to ensure compliance with the PAH limits for infill materials used on sports pitches?
2. Does the Commission, in cooperation with the ECHA and the Member States, plan to publish guidance to support a safe transition to microplastic-free sports pitches?
3. Will it support Member States, in particular local and regional authorities, through financial instruments or EU funds to accelerate the replacement of hazardous infill materials with more environmentally friendly alternatives?

Submitted: 30.6.2025