

**Question for written answer E-002684/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Ethanol in products of societal importance

Ethanol is an essential substance that is widely used in everything from hand sanitiser and disinfectants in healthcare to the manufacturing of medicines and hygiene products. It is used because it is effective, easily accessible and safe when used correctly. In many cases, there are in practice no viable alternatives, and where there are, they are often more expensive or less effective.

From a preparedness perspective, it is therefore very worrying that the Commission is considering classifying ethanol as a CMR 1 substance, meaning there is a risk that a number of essential products will be banned outright. Such a decision could seriously undermine our crisis-response capabilities.

With the above in mind:

1. What impact assessments have been carried out on the effects that banning ethanol in consumer and hygiene products will have on critical functions within society?
2. How will it be ensured that the classification process takes into account actual exposure, societal benefits and the dearth of alternatives in critical applications?

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