

**Question for written answer E-004190/2025
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Harmonised classification of talc

The Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has recommended classifying talc as STOT RE 1, H372¹ and as a Category 1B carcinogen². The decision, adopted by the chair's casting vote, is based on limited and inconclusive scientific evidence.

This proposed classification could have serious consequences for the EU's mineral self-sufficiency, industrial competitiveness, and regional employment. This is particularly true in Finland, where Europe's largest talc reserves are located. At European level, there is a clear risk not only of weakening mineral self-sufficiency but also of industries that use talc relocating outside the EU, further undermining Europe's strategic autonomy and industrial base. It may also indirectly affect soapstone production, which applies talc exposure limits. Given the potentially severe industrial and regional implications:

1. How does the Commission assess the weight of the scientific evidence supporting the ECHA RAC's recommendation to classify talc as a Category 1B carcinogen?
2. What steps will the Commission take to ensure that any regulatory decision on talc remains proportionate, evidence-based, and aligned with the EU's strategic objectives on mineral self-sufficiency and industrial resilience?

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¹ Causes damage to lungs through prolonged or repeated exposure via inhalation.

² <https://www.echa.europa.eu/-/highlights-from-september-2024-rac-and-seac-meetings>.