

Question for written answer E-002743/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Beatrice Timgren (ECR)

Subject: Clarification regarding the legality and proportionality of the SUPD Guidelines

Wet wipes are an essential product for millions of consumers. They provide hygiene solutions for families, infants, elderly people and persons with disabilities. This sector plays an important role in the European economy, supporting manufacturing, innovation and thousands of jobs.

The guidelines on the costs of cleaning up litter under the Single-Use Plastics Directive (SUPD) suggest that the scope of litter clean-up costs may include the cleaning of waste water infrastructure. The guidelines, which should merely interpret legislation and not extend its scope, go beyond the SUPD, which never refers to such costs. This document creates uncertainty for national authorities and economic operators, while imposing costs on industries and families that were never subject to an impact assessment.

Can the Commission clarify the following:

1. Did the Commission conduct an impact assessment of the impact of the guidelines on industry and on the affordability of essential hygiene products, particularly for families with young children?
2. Did the Commission assess the proportionality of the measure, considering that infrastructure maintenance costs exist regardless of wet wipes?
3. How do these guidelines align with the current Commission's simplification agenda?

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