

Question for written answer E-003247/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Piotr Müller (ECR)

Subject: Criteria for exemptions from extended producer responsibility under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

Directive (EU) 2024/3019 establishes a system of extended producer responsibility in relation to the costs of removing micropollutants from urban waste water.

These new obligations may entail significant costs for cosmetics manufacturers, and the method for determining biodegradability criteria is also particularly important for consumer chemicals sectors, including the detergents industry, which have for years been developing and assessing substances in terms of their behaviour in the environment.

Article 9 of the Directive provides for exemptions from the EPR scheme if a producer demonstrates that no micropollutants are generated or that the substance is rapidly biodegradable.

Recital 22 requires the Commission to take into account the existing criteria set out in Regulation (EC) 1272/2008, available scientific knowledge and relevant international standards.

The implementing criteria should therefore ensure legal certainty and effective opportunities to benefit from the exemptions provided for by the legislator.

Given the above:

1. How will the Commission ensure that the criteria concerning micropollutants and rapid biodegradability fully reflect the requirements of recital 22 of the Directive?
2. How will the Commission take into account the behaviour of substances in waste water and in the environment when assessing rapid biodegradability?
3. How will the Commission ensure that the implementing measures do not, in practice, narrow the scope of the exemptions provided for in Article 9, nor introduce additional conditions not derived from the Directive?

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