

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002614/25
to the Commission
Benoit Cassart (Renew), Olivier Chastel (Renew)
(28 June 2025)**

Subject: Combating vector-borne diseases as part of the review of the Biocidal Products Regulation

Since Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 concerning the making available on the market and use of biocidal products entered into force, Article 72 thereof has forbidden any advertisement of the characteristics of such products, even when these are based on proven evidence (effectiveness, safety, chemical properties and manufacturing process). This ban prevents manufacturers of approved skin-applied repellents from providing information aimed at vulnerable groups (pregnant women, infants and immunocompromised patients) even though the people concerned cannot be vaccinated against vector-borne diseases like dengue fever and chikungunya. This is at odds with public health objectives and citizens' right to information.

1. Does the Commission plan to include a targeted exemption from Article 72 for biocides meant for use by certain vulnerable groups, in order to allow for justified, clear and responsible communication?
2. As part of the ongoing review, what measures does the Commission plan to propose to guarantee access to vital information and to make sure that products that protect vulnerable groups are available on the market?

Submitted: 28.6.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(5 September 2025)**

The provisions as regards advertising established in Article 72 of Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 on Biocidal Products ⁽¹⁾ aim to guarantee that the necessary information on the risks of biocidal products and the necessary instructions or precautions of use are conveyed to the users, while avoiding misleading claims, in view to protect the health of citizens in particular vulnerable groups.

The Commission is not aware of any evidence that these provisions do negatively impact the availability of repellent products for use by vulnerable groups.

On the contrary, the provisions in Article 72 guarantee that those products are used safely. Therefore, at this stage the Commission sees no need for their amendment.

The Commission plans to start an evaluation of the regulation on Biocidal Products by the end of 2025. The results of the evaluation will be considered to decide whether amendments to current rules are needed.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2012 concerning the making available on the market and use of biocidal products OJ L 167, 27.6.2012, p. 1.