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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.9.2025)

The enforcement of Regulation (EU) 2021/1199¹ on polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) is a national competence. Member States are responsible for verifying compliance with the PAH limits for infill materials used on sports pitches. In case of evidence pointing to a failure to properly enforce EU law, the Commission can launch infringement proceedings against Member States.

To further support stakeholders and Member State authorities in the implementation of the restriction of microplastics intentionally added to products under the Regulation (EC) 1907/2006 on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals (REACH)², the Commission recently published an Explanatory Guide³. The Guide will allow the correct application of the ban of synthetic infill material for synthetic sports surfaces as of 17 October 2031, and a safe transition to microplastic-free sports pitches.

While REACH does not provide for funds to subsidise the socio-economic impacts of restriction measures, there are other financial mechanisms funded by the EU that may help with that. Replacing hazardous infills for sport surfaces with more environmentally friendly materials could be supported by EU cohesion policy Funds⁴. In addition, privately-owned sports facilities may be eligible for support from the EU cohesion policy Funds that support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1199/oj/eng>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02006R1907-20250422>.

³ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/chemicals/reach/restrictions/commission-regulation-eu-20232055-restriction-microplastics-intentionally-added-products_en.

⁴ See conditions for accessing the funds: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/accessing-funds_en.