

EN
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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.10.2025)

The on-going discussion about the potential classification of ethanol to which the Honourable Member refers is part of the evaluation of ethanol, in view of its possible approval as an active substance for use in biocidal products under Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 (BPR)¹. The decision will be made by the Commission, considering the opinion of the European Chemicals Agency's Biocidal Products Committee expected to be adopted by the end of 2025, and it will only concern uses of ethanol in biocidal products.

Ethanol may still be approved for use in biocidal products, regardless of the conclusion on the hazard classification, if deemed safe for human, animal health and the environment. The authorisation of biocidal products containing ethanol will take place subsequently under the responsibility of the Member States, which may consider socio-economic impacts, such as availability of disinfectants. In this regard, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) conducted a public consultation on alternatives to ethanol in biocidal products (25 February-30 April 2025).

Additionally, the Greek authorities plan to submit a dossier to update the harmonised classification under Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008² by the end of 2026. After a thorough scientific assessment by ECHA, the Commission will decide on the appropriateness of re-classification, following consultation with the relevant expert group.

The Commission will do its utmost to duly consider all relevant aspects in the decision-making process.

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.

² Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006, OJ L 353 31.12.2008, p. 1-1355.