

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002887/25
to the Commission
César Luena (S&D)
(15 July 2025)**

Subject: Use of CMR substances in cosmetics and their compatibility with EU health and sustainability objectives

The recent presentation of the chemicals package by the European Commission has generated widespread public concern about the weakening of public health protection. In particular, the proposal to amend the regulation on cosmetic products provides for the possibility of allowing the use of certain substances classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic (CMR), provided there is no danger posed through skin contact, but only through ingestion or inhalation.

This proposal would run counter to the precautionary principle and would lower the levels of consumer protection achieved so far in the EU, especially in everyday products such as cosmetics.

Considering the above:

1. What scientific and regulatory justification is there for the proposal to allow CMR substances in cosmetics where a risk through skin contact is not clearly proven?
2. What kind of independent assessment is planned to ensure that these substances do not really pose a risk through skin contact?
3. How does this proposal align with the objectives of the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability and the commitment to ensure a high level of health protection in the internal market?

Submitted: 15.7.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(4 September 2025)**

1. The simplification Omnibus for chemicals proposal published on 8 July 2025 ⁽¹⁾ will not weaken consumer protection. It introduces clearer, more enforceable rules for the prohibition of carcinogenic, mutagenic, or reprotoxic (CMR) substances ⁽²⁾ that remain banned by default in cosmetics. A derogation is only possible under strict conditions, including a positive safety assessment by the independent Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS). A CMR classification under the Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulation ⁽³⁾ is *hazard-based* and does not consider real-world exposure in cosmetics (e.g. concentration, application method, frequency). The proposal allows for a risk-based assessment, ensuring that substances posing *no proven risk via skin contact* may be considered safe for use, following an assessment by the SCCS. The possibility of risk via inhalation or oral exposure can and will be considered, where relevant.
2. The proposal obliges the SCCS to conduct a thorough safety assessment of the substance under the derogation procedure. Only if the SCCS concludes that the substance is safe for human health under specific conditions of use, it can be used in cosmetics.
3. The proposal maintains a high level of health protection while addressing regulatory gaps that have made the current derogation process very difficult to implement. It supports better implementation, legal certainty, ensuring that CMR substances are only allowed when multiple criteria are fulfilled including safety.

⁽¹⁾ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/publications/simplification-certain-requirements-and-procedures-chemical-products_en.

⁽²⁾ Chemical substances classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction.

⁽³⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2008/1272/2025-02-01>.