

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004190/25
to the Commission**

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(23 October 2025)

Subject: Harmonised classification of talc

The Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has recommended classifying talc as STOT RE 1, H372 ⁽¹⁾ and as a Category CB carcinogen ⁽²⁾. The decision, adopted by the chair's casting vote, is based on limited and inconclusive scientific evidence.

This proposed classification could have serious consequences for the EU's mineral self-sufficiency, industrial competitiveness, and regional employment. This is particularly true in Finland, where Europe's largest talc reserves are located. At European level, there is a clear risk not only of weakening mineral self-sufficiency but also of industries that use talc relocating outside the EU, further undermining Europe's strategic autonomy and industrial base. It may also indirectly affect soapstone production, which applies talc exposure limits. Given the potentially severe industrial and regional implications:

1. How does the Commission assess the weight of the scientific evidence supporting the ECHA RAC's recommendation to classify talc as a Category CB carcinogen?
2. What steps will the Commission take to ensure that any regulatory decision on talc remains proportionate, evidence-based, and aligned with the EU's strategic objectives on mineral self-sufficiency and industrial resilience?

Submitted: 23.10.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European
Commission**

(10 December 2025)

The opinion of the European Chemicals Agency's Risk Assessment Committee on talc was published on 9 July 2025. This independent group of highly skilled toxicologists recommended a classification of a presumed carcinogen (Category cB) for this substance.

The Commission will analyse this opinion to decide whether it is appropriate to subject talc to a harmonised classification as carcinogen Category cB in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission will consult and benefit from the expertise of the Competent Authorities for the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) ⁽²⁾ and the Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) expert group (CARACAL). A first discussion by this group is scheduled in January 2026.

Honourable Members of the European Parliament can participate. Depending on the outcome of these discussions, if talc were to be classified, direct consequences would be limited to relabelling and repackaging.

If additional regulatory actions for talc at EU level would be triggered, the Commission would take into account socioeconomic considerations to identify the most appropriate solution.

According to Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008, the Commission decision on the classification of a substance must be based on robust scientific facts, including the hazardous properties of the substance, and in broad consultation with all parties involved.

¹ Causes damage to lungs through prolonged or repeated exposure via inhalation.

² <https://www.echa.europa.eu/-/highlights-from-september-2024-rac-and-seac-meetings>.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02008R1272-20170101>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02006R1907-20250901>.

The process in place ensures that the Commission's decisions on harmonised classification are evidence-based and scientifically robust.

Harmonised classifications of substances take place through delegated acts that are subject to the right of scrutiny of the European Parliament and the Council.
