

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005070/25
to the Commission
Dimitris Tsiodras (PPE)
(24 December 2025)**

Subject: Consumer protection through more effective control and prevention of the introduction of dangerous cosmetics on the European market

Over the past few days, a number of dangerous cosmetics have been withdrawn from the European market after laboratory tests detected extremely high concentrations of carcinogenic substances such as arsenic and heavy metals, including antimony, selenium, barium, cobalt and zirconium. This constitutes a violation of European legislation and makes these products dangerous for consumers.

It is significant that these products were either imported from Asian countries or were of ‘unknown origin’, since they are imported via online platforms, which do not assume the obligations arising from the import and placing of a product on the European market. This shows once again that the current system is more reactive than preventive, as authorities intervene only after dangerous products have already been sold, rather than preventing their distribution.

In light of the above, can the Commission say:

1. What measures does it intend to take to control the import of such products into the market more effectively?
2. In the context of dialogue with non-EU countries, what steps is it taking to prevent such products from being imported into the EU?
3. How will it ensure that an economic operator assumes its obligations, and that its contact details are available and easily accessible for consumers?

Submitted: 24.12.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(18 March 2026)**

Cosmetics sold in the EU, including online, must comply with Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 ⁽¹⁾ and have an EU-based responsible person.

Dangerous products are regularly detained or seized during customs clearance when non-compliance with EU legislation is identified, thereby preventing their distribution on the EU market.

The Commission has launched a joint priority control action carried out by customs and market surveillance authorities, investigating the level of non-compliance of the e-commerce consignments.

To strengthen controls on imported goods, including cosmetics, the Commission proposal to revise the Union Customs Code ⁽²⁾, as part of the EU Customs Reform, is being examined by the co-legislators.

The reform aims to strengthen EU customs’ import supervision through a more robust and efficient framework, digital tools and closer cooperation with market surveillance authorities.

In parallel, the Commission raises compliance with EU cosmetics and product safety rules in dialogues with third countries and through technical cooperation to prevent non-compliant products entering the EU.

Only cosmetics with an EU-based responsible person may be placed on the EU market, and their identity and contact details must be indicated under Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009.

Moreover, the Commission will revise the Market Surveillance Regulation ⁽³⁾ with the aim to ensure a level playing field between EU and non-EU products and manufacturers.

The revision will consider strengthening the EU-based responsible person framework and using the Digital Product Passport ⁽⁴⁾ to support enforcement.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02009R1223-20250901>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52023PC0258>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02019R1020-20240523>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02024R1781-20240628>.

In addition, Member States are intensifying cosmetics controls, with Safety Gate cases rising from 211 in 2022 to 1 717 in 2025.
