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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.9.2026)

The Commission is fully committed to protecting the environment and human health when implementing the Regulation on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)[1].

The Commission began its work on the restriction on skin-sensitising substances in clothing, footwear and other articles that come into contact with human skin shortly after receipt of the proposal from the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)[2]. The Commission notes the complexity of this file, given its broad scope (covering more than 1 000 substances) and the resulting challenge of developing a restriction proposal that is both proportionate to the identified risk and operational. The Commission has engaged with Member States' competent authorities (including enforcement authorities), industry, non-governmental organisations and laboratories, with the objective of finding practical solutions to different challenges related to future compliance, enforcement and recycling.

The Commission is aware of the health benefits of the proposed restriction and remains fully committed to proposing a restriction that is effective and enforceable in practice, and workable for both authorities and economic operators. The Commission intends to present a draft restriction to the REACH Committee as soon as possible.

[1] Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2006/1907/oj.

[2] ECHA Background Document skin sensitisers, https://chesar.echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/82d6f20a-af6c-9a42-3cc5-77649900f348.