

HEAL's comments on the evaluation of the Cosmetic Products Regulation

The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) welcomes the Call for Evidence on the evaluation of the Cosmetic Products Regulation No 1223/2009 (CPR).

Considering that the CPR aims to protect consumer health, and in light of the many chemicals of concern still found in cosmetics products, we believe a revision of the regulation would improve its relevance e.g. by sharpening the current obligations for cosmetic ingredients based on properties of concern, considering combination effects of chemicals in the safety assessment and extending the scope of the regulation to environmental effects in line with the One Health approach. These modifications would also improve the coherence of the regulation by aligning it with other EU chemical regulations.

We have summarised some of our concerns and our main suggestions for a revision of the CPR below.

- 1) The current generic approach to risk management in article 15 of the CPR should be extended to the most harmful chemicals, including those classified for the recently added hazard classes under CLP i.e. known and suspected endocrine disruptors, PBT/vPvB and PMT/vPvM chemicals, to ensure that these hazardous substances are prohibited in cosmetics. As shown for example by the [Danish Consumer Council Think \(Forbrugerrådet Tænk\)](#) or [Erase All Toxins \(Tegengif\)](#), today several care products and cosmetics on the EU market contain these harmful substances. Recent tests in Denmark included for example [face creams](#), [sunscreens](#) and [toothpaste](#), and for each of these product groups they found that some of the tested products contained suspected endocrine disruptors. Likewise, [60% of the 111 tested personal care products](#) tested in the Netherlands in 2020 contained known and suspected endocrine disruptors.
- 2) The approval of cosmetic preservatives, colorants and UV-filters should be subject to the obligation to provide regular updates. This would ensure that new information on the ingredients is taken into consideration. Additionally, regular updates of the list of approved substances should ensure that cosmetics do not contain preservatives, colorants and UV-filters that are not registered under REACH. Currently, a third of approved cosmetics preservatives of environmental concern is not REACH-registered (Kättström et al., 2024).
- 3) The unintended combined/cumulative exposure to chemicals should be considered in the safety assessment of cosmetic ingredients to better represent actual exposures from several products of daily use (Thépaut et al., 2021; Ficheux et al., 2019; Husøy et al., 2019).
- 4) The scope of the CPR should be extended to cover environmental effects of cosmetic ingredients. As highlighted by Kättström et al. (2024), more than half of the approved cosmetic preservatives are of environmental concern. As the environmental release of cosmetic ingredients is not assessed or monitored and no regulatory measures are in place, the environmental risk of these chemicals can currently only be estimated. Additionally, the neglect to consider environmental hazards and

exposures of cosmetic ingredients represents a major discrepancy between the CPR and other chemical regulations such as REACH or the Biocidal Product Regulation (BPR). This has led to the situation that a substance that is hazardous for the environment can be approved as a preservative in cosmetics, but at the same time the same substance is not approved for use in biocidal products due to its environmental hazards (Kättström et al., 2022).

References

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HEAL's EU Transparency Register Number: 00723343929-96