

Question for written answer E-003058/2024

to the Commission

Rule 144

Katarina Barley (S&D), René Repasi (S&D), Tiemo Wölken (S&D)

Subject: Dangers of button cell batteries for children

Button cell batteries, in particular those of up to 20mm in size, can pose a significant health risk to children and adolescents. If swallowed, they can remain stuck in the oesophagus, where they cause severe chemical burns that can be fatal.

1. What measures is the Commission planning to prevent this risk, and does the Commission intend to enact a regulation under Article 11(4) of Regulation 2023/1542 on batteries and waste batteries or to make use of the EU's harmonised product legislation to make battery compartments safer?
2. Does the Commission intend, if necessary together with market watchdogs, to ascertain the safety of button cell packaging and to look into ways of improving packaging safety?
3. Does the Commission intend to promote the development of safe alternatives and provide consumers with proper information about risks?

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