



BEUC The European
Consumer
Organisation

The Consumer Voice in Europe

Consumers, Products and EU Chemicals Policy

Pelle Moos, PhD

EFA meet & greet the EU 2019

Brussels, 22 January 2019

BEUC is proud of its members



BEUC and chemicals

- We work to safeguard consumers against chemicals of concern
- Our chemicals work is focused on
 - **Consumer products**, *e.g.* cosmetics, toys, food packaging, textiles, ...
 - **Chemicals of (particular) concern**, *e.g.* CMRs, EDCs, (skin) sensitizers
 - **The consumers' right to know**

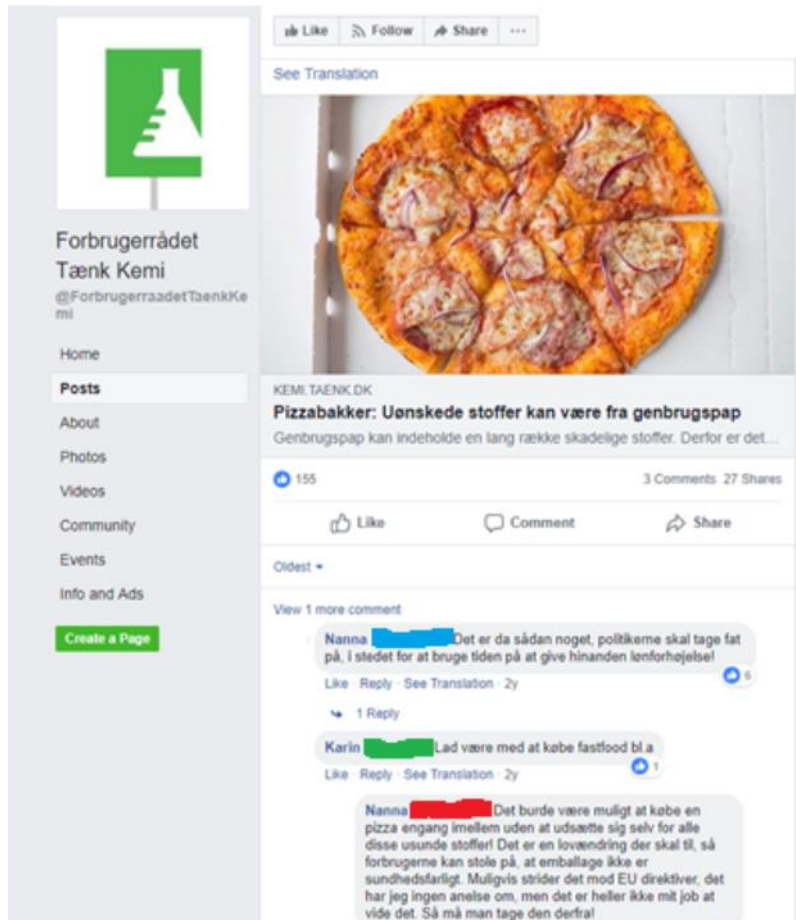
An example to set the scene



One in three soaps for washing dishes by hand tested by Forbrugerrådet Tænk (our Danish member) contained allergenic preservatives, such as Methylisothiazolinone (MI)

Details @ kemi.taenk.dk/bliv-groennere/check-your-dishwashing-soap-allergenic-preservatives

Consumers are concerned...



More than **four in five** Europeans (84 percent) report concerns about chemicals in everyday products (up from 43 percent in 2014)

Concerns across the EU, esp. in Southern and Eastern Europe

Sources: Special Eurobarometer 468 'Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment' (2017)
Special Eurobarometer 416 'Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment' (2014)

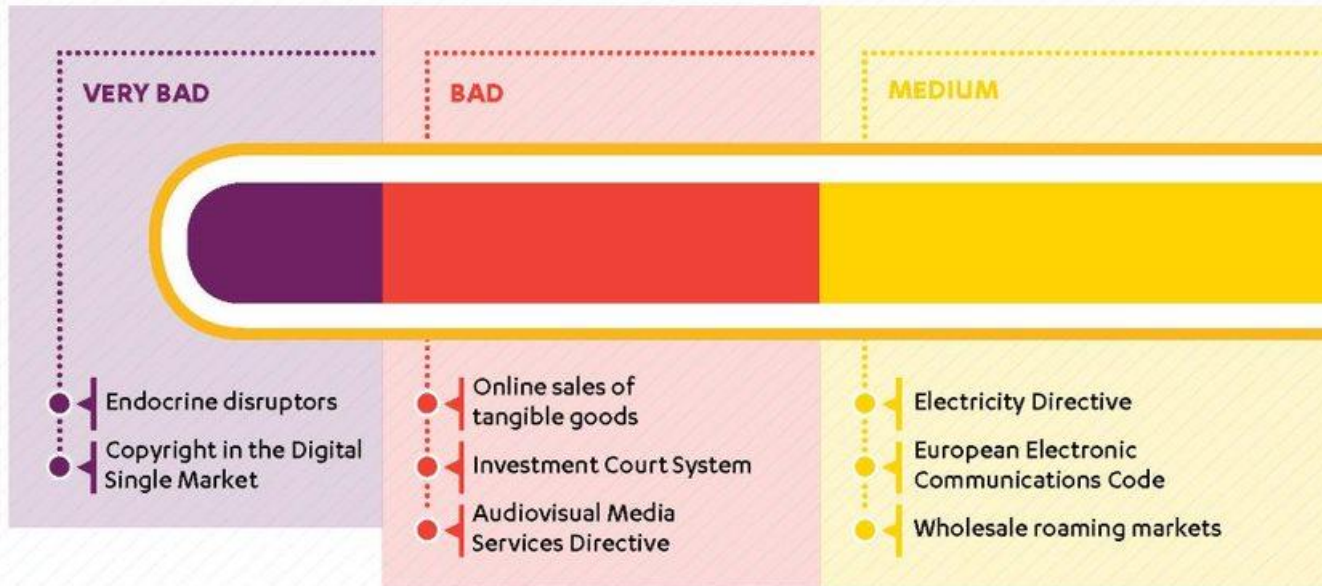
... with reason!

“legislation preventing the presence of toxic substances in products (where possible) is **scattered, neither systematic nor consistent and applies only to very few substances, articles and uses**, often with many exemptions”

Where rules do exist, **enforcement is often weak and patchy**

Source: publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/89fbbb74-969c-11e7-b92d-01aa75ed71a1/language-en

Juncker Commission Consumer performance check





**Consumer priorities for the 2019
European Parliament elections**

2019, a changing political landscape

- **May 2019**, a new European Parliament
 - **November 2019**, a new College of Commissioners
- ➔ **Opportunity for a revitalized EU agenda on harmful chemicals – but we need to push for it, together!**

Fragrance allergens

26 specific substances must be declared in cosmetics (and detergents), or about 1 per cent

2012 SCCS opinion: improve transparency for an additional 62 substances

December 2018: Commission roadmap outlines 3 options

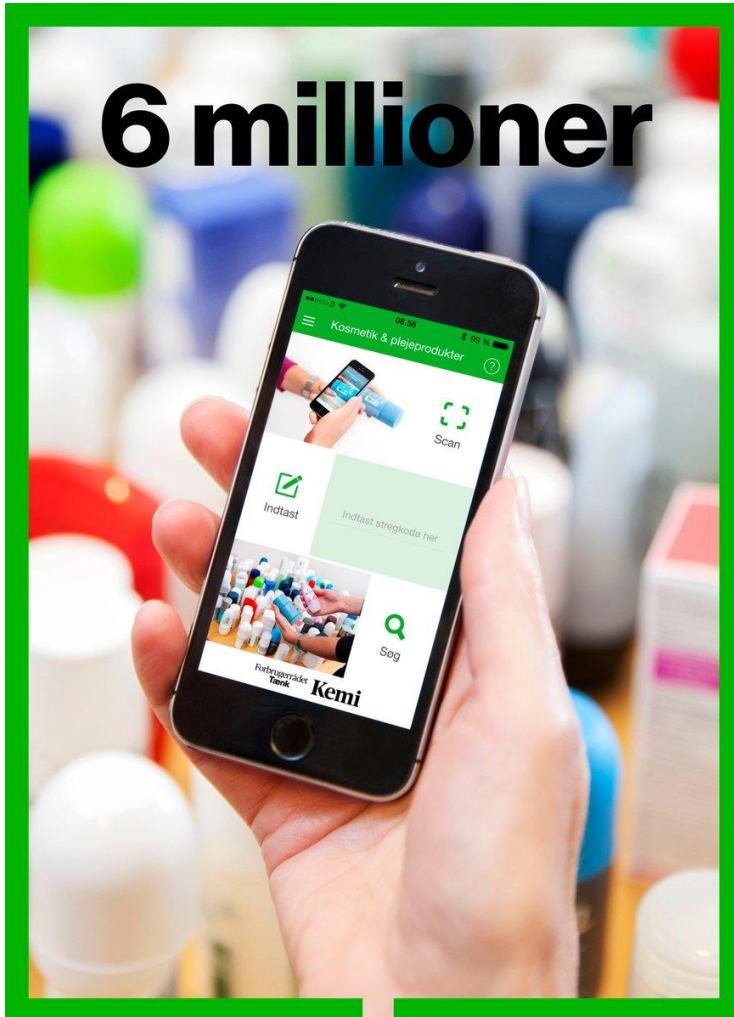
1. Do nothing (unacceptable!)
2. **'On-pack' labelling**
3. E-labelling (unfair and unrealistic)

Next step: open public consultation (May 2019) + stakeholder interviews

SCCS also considered **'contact allergens in animals'** and **'likely contact allergens'** + **'Established fragrance contact allergens of special concern'** → not mentioned by the Commission...

NB. Implementing directive amending the **Toy Safety Directive**

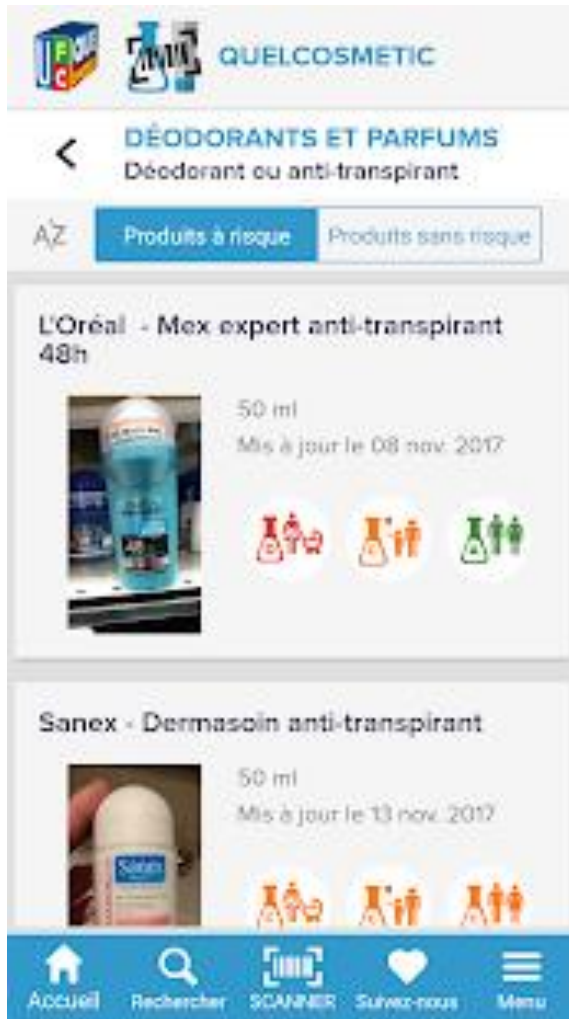
Empowering consumers



Kemiluppen

- ✓ 10.000+ products
- ✓ 280.000 downloads
- ✓ 6.000.000 scans (there are 5.5m Danes)

Empowering consumers



QuelCosmetic

- ✓ Launch March 2018
- ✓ 700.000 downloads
- ✓ 6.000.000 scans

The EU Ecolabel

Designed for greener and healthier consumer choices, e.g. the ecolabel cannot be awarded to detergents which contain substances that may cause allergy or asthma symptoms or breathing difficulties if inhaled.

The Ecolabel pushes manufacturers to go the extra mile; hazardous substances must, whenever technically possible, be substituted with safer alternatives.

Some 40,000 products and services across 30 categories, incl. paints, shampoos, baby clothes and cleaning products.



YEARS

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Thank you for your attention!

www.beuc.eu

safety@beuc.eu

