

MEDIA STATEMENT

Brussels, 24 March 2026

Cosmetics Europe and IFRA warn against misinformation on cosmetics and fragrance safety in the context of Omnibus VI

- *Recent months have seen a surge in misinformation regarding cosmetics product safety in Europe*
- *Consumer safety is the primary priority of both EU legislators and the cosmetics industry*
- *Misleading claims risk distorting understanding of cosmetics safety rules among policymakers and citizens*

Brussels, 24 March 2026 - In recent months, European consumers and policymakers have been increasingly exposed to misleading and inaccurate claims regarding the safety of cosmetic and fragrance products and their future regulation. These include assertions that the Omnibus VI revision would relax safety rules for carcinogenic substances, lower safety standards through regulatory simplification, or that cosmetic products pose significant health risks. Such claims are unfounded. Their growing volume risks undermining informed policymaking and public trust.

“Recent months have seen a concerning rise in misinformation about the proposed changes under Omnibus VI. These claims do not reflect reality,” said Alexander Mohr, PhD, President of the International Fragrance Association (IFRA). *“Omnibus VI represents a targeted adjustment to regulatory processes, not a change to the fundamental principles of cosmetic and fragrance safety. Safety assessments remain firmly anchored in independent scientific evaluation and robust controls.”*

Consumer safety is the central objective for both EU legislators and the cosmetics and fragrance industry, including companies of all sizes across the sector. The European Union maintains one of the most stringent regulatory frameworks globally, ensuring that all products undergo rigorous scientific assessment and are subject to strict post-market surveillance.

“While the European Union moves forward with streamlining and clarifying the cosmetics framework to reduce administrative burden and foster competitiveness, our total commitment to safety has not changed,” said John Chave, Director-General of Cosmetics Europe. *“Omnibus VI does not weaken safeguards. On the contrary, it ensures that regulatory decisions are better aligned with robust scientific evidence making it less likely that safe ingredients will be banned, and 100% certain that ingredients that need to be banned, are banned”.*

Cosmetics Europe and IFRA call on legislators to support Omnibus VI as a pragmatic and proportionate measure that upholds Europe’s high standards of consumer protection while supporting innovation and competitiveness in the cosmetics and fragrance sector. They also stress the need for vigilance against coordinated misinformation campaigns, which risk distorting the regulatory process.



PRESS RELEASE



“Safety is non-negotiable,” added Mr Chave. “However, safety decisions must be based on science, not irrelevant criteria and procedural bottlenecks. Omnibus VI introduces necessary adjustments to ensure this objective is met.”

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