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Subject:	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on preventing plastic pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution – General approach = Statement

Statement of Estonia

Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on preventing plastic pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution (hereinafter “Regulation”).

Estonia supports the overall aim of the Regulation to prevent plastic pellet losses to the environment and protect ecosystems and human health. However, we consider it necessary to express the following concern.

In principle, Estonia does not support the introduction of sector-specific civil law rules in EU internal market legislation since such differences unduly complicate the legal system and may lead to a situation where persons, including injured persons or businesses operating in different sectors, are treated differently, which could pose problems regarding the principle of equal treatment manifested in our Constitution. This applies regarding the rules foreseen in the Regulation on the limitation periods of health damage claims, which have resulted due to infringements of the Regulation.

Although the current text states that Member States may establish limitation periods for such compensation claims, it still provides specific mandatory rules regarding the starting point of the limitation period. This means that the limitation period for health damage claim arising due to the infringement of the Regulation is different from the limitation period for other health damage claims, for which Estonian law provides a uniform limitation period, considering, that victims should not be treated differently depending on the wrongful act that caused the health damage.

Therefore, Estonia would urge to consider the above-mentioned arguments in the course of the upcoming negotiation phases.
