

Question for written answer E-003959/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Riho Terras (PPE)

Subject: REACH restriction on lead in rimfire ammunition

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has confirmed that lead-free alternatives for rimfire bullets are either not available or unsuitable for hunting, and that manufacturers face technical barriers to developing functional alternatives¹. The Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC) has also recognised these limitations².

In the proposed restriction under Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 on the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals³ (REACH Regulation), the Commission foresees prohibiting the use of rimfire bullets of any calibre for hunting, with a 10-year transitional period and no review clause.

Can the Commission clarify:

1. How it considers that this proposed restriction complies with Article 68(1) of the REACH Regulation, in particular the requirement for technically feasible alternatives?
2. How the socio-economic impacts have been assessed, given that, at the end of the transitional period, hunters using rimfire rifles would effectively be unable to continue their activity?

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¹ ECHA, Background Document, 2.12.2022, p. 312; and ECHA, Annex to the Background Document, 2.12.2022, p. 428.

² Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) and SEAC, Opinion on an Annex XV dossier proposing restrictions on lead and its compounds, 2.12.2022, p. 60.

³ OJ L 396, 30.12.2006, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2006/1907/oj> (<http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2006/1907/oj>).