Question for written answer E-002247/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Waste management of lead gunshot in outdoor shooting ranges

Lead is classified as a hazardous substance under the CLP Regulation. Its systematic dumping in outdoor shooting ranges without certified periodic collection constitutes an uncontrolled dispersal of hazardous waste that is potentially incompatible with the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), with documented effects on agricultural land, wildlife and aquifers.

The ECHA has issued scientific opinions in favour of restricting lead in outdoor ammunition under the REACH Regulation, pending a decision by the Commission. At the same time, the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) requires operators responsible for environmental damage to bear the costs of remediation, an obligation which, in practice, is rarely applied to this type of pollution.

In view of the above:

1. What is the current status of the decision regarding the REACH restriction on lead in outdoor ammunition?

2. Does the Commission have mechanisms in place to verify compliance with the Waste Directive by shooting range operators?

3. Does the future Soil Directive contain specific provisions on the remediation of agricultural land contaminated by this type of activity?

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