

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003029/24
to the Commission
Raquel García Hermida-Van Der Walle (Renew)
(18 December 2024)**

Subject: Further EU action regarding high-risk fireworks

Every year, thousands of accidents involving (high-risk) fireworks happen within the EU, leading to significant physical and material damage. Therefore, the Benelux countries (Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg) introduced the 'Pyro-Pass', a control document serving as a permit for the purchase of high-risk professional fireworks, to combat the illegal trade in pyrotechnic articles and prevent harm. ⁽¹⁾ In May, the Benelux countries jointly advocated for more Union-wide standards and rules regarding pyrotechnic articles (including high-risk fireworks) and their availability and use. ⁽²⁾

1. Does the Commission agree that more action is necessary to prevent firework-related accidents and damage and combat the illegal trade in pyrotechnic articles, and that further EU-level regulatory harmonisation of pyrotechnic articles and their use, sale and production in the internal market would serve this objective?
2. What is the Commission's view of the 'Pyro-Pass', and does it consider that the introduction of such a permit at the EU level could contribute to a safer environment for citizens?
3. What are the conclusions of the Commission's recent evaluation ⁽³⁾ of Directive 2013/29/EU on pyrotechnic articles ⁽⁴⁾, and will it propose an update to the directive? If so, what kind of rules, and in what time frame? If not, why not, and how will it address the negative consequences of high-risk fireworks otherwise?

Submitted: 18.12.2024

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(18 March 2025)**

1. The Commission shares the concern about the increasing and often severe accidents with pyrotechnic articles, many of which involve illegal and criminal use of fireworks. The Commission is currently evaluating the Pyrotechnics Directive ⁽¹⁾ to identify any shortcomings. Following this evaluation, a decision might be taken to revise the directive after assessing the respective impacts of possible ways of amending the directive.
2. The Commission is closely following the implementation of the recently introduced Pyro-Pass in Benelux as a possible means to improve legal trade of pyrotechnic articles. The EU-wide introduction of such system may be considered for the revision of the EU rules.
3. The evaluation of the Pyrotechnics Directive is still ongoing. The conclusions are expected to be published in second quarter 2025. As regards potential legislative follow-up measures, please see the reply to the first question. In addition, the Commission has launched a study to assess the feasibility of the potential options to tackle the growing security problems posed by the criminal misuse of pyrotechnic articles which aims to provide a more detailed picture of the security issues linked to pyrotechnic articles. To note that the criminal misuse of pyrotechnic articles is also at the attention of Europol.

¹ https://www.tweedekamer.nl/kamerstukken/brieven_regering/detail?id=2024D39304&did=2024D39304.

² 'Declaration by European Ministers on the regulation and Harmonisation of Pyrotechnic Articles in the Single Market', https://www.benelux.int/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Belgium24eu_240516_143626.pdf.

³ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2023-000004-ASW_EN.html.

⁴ Directive 2013/29/EU of 12 June 2013 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of pyrotechnic articles, OJ L 178, 28.6.2013, p. 27, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2013/29/oj>.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2013/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of pyrotechnic articles, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2013/29/oj>