

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003595/25
to the Commission
Pär Holmgren (Verts/ALE)
(17 September 2025)**

Subject: Exemption for the use of methylene chloride in Eskilstuna

Senior Material Europe AB, a firm based in Eskilstuna (Sweden), has been granted an exemption to use 1 280 tonnes of methylene chloride (dichloromethane) between 1 October 2025 and 30 September 2027, of which up to 900 tonnes per year may be released into the air.

Methylene chloride is classified as carcinogenic and very toxic. It has been banned for consumer use in the EU since 2011.

Eskilstuna is located within the Mälaren (Lake Malar) basin, which is the source of drinking water for more than two million people in the Mälaren Valley region, including Stockholm.

Does the Commission consider this exemption to be consistent with EU legislation on chemicals (REACH) and EU environmental legislation?

Submitted: 17.9.2025

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

Methylene chloride (also called dichloromethane) is restricted in the EU under the regulation on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals ⁽¹⁾ (REACH) for use in paint strippers.

This restriction specifically targets placing on the market of this substance in paint strippers for supply to general public and to professionals as well as the use by professionals.

In line with this restriction, Member States may allow its use in their territories by trained and certified professionals under specific, Member State-defined conditions.

Moreover, this EU restriction also sets minimum conditions for uses of dichloromethane in paint strippers in industrial installations, such as for example, an effective ventilation in all processing areas, measures for safe handling or use of personal protective equipment and training of employees.

In addition to the EU restriction, Sweden has put in place national bans for other uses of this substance not covered by the EU restriction, set in Chapter 5 of the Swedish Chemicals Agency Regulations (KIFS 2017:7) Chlorinated solvents — Kemikalieinspektionen.

However, Sweden also provides for a possibility and procedure to grant exemptions to these national bans, including for uses in car batteries.

While the Commission fully appreciates the concerns of the Honourable Member about the potential environment and public health issues arising from excessive emissions of hazardous substances, this specific case seems to be covered by national regulation that is additional to current restrictions under REACH.

⁽¹⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2006/1907/2025-09-01>.