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E-004252/2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.1.2026)

Based on evidence¹ from the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and its scientific committees, the Commission considers that only the combination of the different risk management measures set out in the Appendix to the draft restriction is effective to contain lead gunshot in outdoor sports shooting ranges. pH monitoring and treatment of gunshot impact zones would not be sufficient. However, for some of the proposed lead containment measures (such as walls, nets, berms or surface covering), stakeholders have the possibility to choose those measures that are better suited to the conditions of the shooting range.

The Commission is proposing to recover spent lead gunshot at least every 5 years, regardless of whether the quantity accumulated covers the cost of collection. This is because spent lead shot that accumulates in shooting ranges poses an environmental risk due to potential ingestion by birds that is not addressed by regulating soil's pH. ECHA has documented these environmental risks, which persist as long as lead pellets from gunshot remain accessible to avian species on the range. The Commission is currently discussing the proposed restriction with the Member States in the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization, and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Committee.

¹ <https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/2c82ef18-ce5d-4b4f-8ff0-002932154acc>;
<https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/48f14c85-b0ca-874e-9c88-ee386f251b06>;
<https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/14c4fceb-31b4-aea2-a9b5-75cdccf8013f>;
<https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/5b8bb5ca-e0fd-519b-6e00-9625404a0ead>.