

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004616/25
to the Commission
Mireia Borrás Pabón (Pfe)
(19 November 2025)**

Subject: Restriction of lead in hunting ammunition under the REACH Regulation

As part of the proposed restriction of lead in ammunition under the REACH Regulation, the Commission has proposed transitional periods of three years for lead shot and eighteen months for centre-fire bullets.

Hunters play an essential role in managing fauna across Europe, creating clear benefits for society by helping to control overpopulated species that cause agricultural damage and reducing traffic accidents caused by animals. According to a socioeconomic study carried out by REACHLaw Ltd in 2021, around 25% of hunters would stop hunting and at least 30% would hunt less often if lead ammunition were banned. The study also indicates that millions of arms would have to be modified or replaced, with one-off costs of up to EUR 14.5 billion.

Therefore:

1. What is the Commission's view of the socioeconomic predictions that this will lead to a significant reduction in hunting activity?
2. Will the Commission revise these timeframes, taking into account the costs and potential risks to effective wildlife management in the EU?

Submitted: 19.11.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(19 February 2026)**

The Commission based its proposal on the opinion of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and its Committee for Risks assessment (RAC) and Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC).

SEAC performed a full analysis of the socioeconomic impacts of the restriction, taking into account the stakeholders views and information submitted through two public consultations.

SEAC considered the survey among hunters indicating a possible 25% drop in hunting but also observed that experience from past regulatory national measures on lead ammunition does not indicate a sustained decline of hunting activities.

Concerning the costs of the restriction for hunters, SEAC concluded that the proposed restriction can be considered proportionate, based on cost-effectiveness analysis and cost-benefit considerations.

Discussions with the Member States in the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Committee on the proposed restriction are ongoing, including on the most appropriate duration for transitional periods, in order to strike a careful balance between minimising impacts on hunters and businesses and limiting lead emissions.

To address Member States' and stakeholders' concerns, the Commission has proposed to extend the transitional period for using centrefire bullets of calibre equal or greater than 5.6 millimetres for hunting to five years, and that of centrefire bullets of calibre smaller than 5.6 millimetres and all rimfire bullets to 15 years.

Discussions with Member States in the REACH Committee, including on the length of the transitional periods, are expected to continue in 2026.
