*(English version)*

**Question for written answer E-000171/26**
**to the Commission**
**César Luena (S&D)**
*(15 January 2026)*

*Subject:* Proposal to restrict lead in gunshot is divided in two, experiences delays and sees transitional periods extended

In February 2025, the Commission presented a proposal under the REACH Regulation to restrict the use of lead in ammunition and fishing tackle. The proposal is based on strong scientific evidence: every year, around 44 000 tonnes of lead are dispersed into the EU environment, over one million birds die from ingesting that lead and millions of people, including children, are exposed to lead by eating game meat.

However, it can be seen from the latest drafts discussed in the REACH Committee that ammunition and fishing tackle have been split into separate files and that some transitional periods for certain types of gunshot have been extended.

In view of the above:

1. Can the Commission justify the fact that the proposal was split in two, and clarify the corresponding updated timetable?

2. What are the technical or scientific reasons for which the Commission decided to extend the transitional periods for certain types of gunshot in the latest draft discussed in the REACH Committee?

3. How does the Commission guarantee that the transitional periods were extended based on scientific criteria, rather than in response to industry pressure, and what is its assessment of the extensions' impact on the protection of biodiversity and public health?

Submitted: 15.1.2026

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

The initial draft restriction proposal was split into two separate proposals, one on lead in ammunition, the other on lead in fishing tackle, at the request of Member States in the Committee established ([1]) under the regulation concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH).

The aim was to make each restriction simpler and easier to understand, improve legal clarity, facilitate discussions and speed up adoption.

The Commission intends to continue discussing the two restriction proposals with the Member States in parallel until one, or both, are mature for a vote in the REACH committee.

The transitional periods for lead gunshot were not changed. Changes to the transitional periods for certain bullets for hunting were introduced to address Member States' concerns.

The Commission is striving to strike a careful balance between minimising lead emissions and limiting socioeconomic impacts, with the aim to achieve consensus among Member States on this important restriction.

The Commission remains fully committed to protecting people and the environment from the harmful effects of lead, a toxic substance.

The extended transitional periods for bullets for hunting will have a negligible impact on total lead emission, considering that emissions from lead bullets from hunting represent less than 0.5% of the total emissions targeted by the restriction.

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([1]) Article 133 of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02006R1907-20251023.