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E-001105/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.5.2026)

The Commission is aware that the European Chemicals Agency proposed to include lead metal in the list of substances subject to the authorisation requirement under the Regulation for the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction chemicals (REACH)¹. The Commission, drawing on past consultations with cultural heritage experts, is not obliged to follow this recommendation and does not intend to include lead in the authorisation list (Annex XIV to REACH). The Commission considers that lead risks are being successfully managed through other risk management measures, including existing restrictions under REACH and the recently revised occupational limits for lead.

The Commission gives the utmost importance to tradition, artisanal work and preservation of cultural heritage. If ever additional measures on lead were to be considered in the more distant future, the Commission will certainly take into account the importance of lead in preserving the European cultural heritage when considering possible derogations during the decision-making process.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02006R1907-20251023>.