

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001289/26
to the Commission
Billy Kelleher (Renew)
(27 March 2026)**

Subject: Impact of the Mercury Regulation

Under the revised Mercury Regulation, Member States will be expected to cease the importation, exportation and manufacturing of mercury-containing lamps, albeit with some exceptions to the rule as set out in the directives on batteries and the restriction of hazardous substances.

Business and agricultural actors have raised significant concerns regarding cost-related issues, including the upfront cost of LED lamps, incompatibility with pre-owned machinery and retrofit costs. This financial pressure may be compounded by deadline expectations.

1. Can the Commission provide clarification on whether there is an intention to review the implementation deadline of 31 December 2026?
2. Can the Commission confirm whether an impact assessment was conducted concerning technical, operational and economic feasibility as well as the viability of proposed deadlines for small businesses?

Submitted: 27.3.2026

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(8 May 2026)**

The Commission does not intend to review the expired phase-out dates for the import, export and manufacture of mercury-containing lamps for general lighting purposes.

Under Directive 2011/65/EU ⁽¹⁾ the placing on the Union market and import of electrical and electronic equipment containing mercury is prohibited, subject to time-limited exemptions listed in Annex III.

The exemptions for mercury-containing lamps used for general lighting expired between 2016 and February 2025. Certain exemptions for specific lamp categories, including high-pressure sodium lamps and special-purpose lamps, remain valid until February 2027, and renewal applications are currently under assessment.

The revised Regulation (EU) 2024/1849 ⁽²⁾ aligns the regulation (EU) 2017/852 ⁽³⁾ with the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) framework.

As a result, once a mercury-containing lamp category is no longer permitted on the EU market under RoHS, the corresponding restrictions on manufacture and export apply under the Mercury Regulation.

The revision of the Mercury Regulation was supported by an impact assessment ⁽⁴⁾, which examined technical, operational and economic aspects, including the feasibility of the measures and their timelines.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2011/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2011 on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment, OJ L 174, 1.7.2011, p. 88-110.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1849 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 amending Regulation (EU) 2017/852 on mercury as regards dental amalgam and other mercury-added products subject to export, import and manufacturing restrictions ('Mercury Regulation'), OJ L, 2024/1849, 10.7.2024.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2017/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on mercury, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1102/2008, OJ L 137, 24.5.2017, pp. 1-21.

⁽⁴⁾ SWD (2023) 396 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=SWD:2023:396:FIN>.