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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.6.2026)

The Commission proposal for a restriction under Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) of lead gunshot¹ includes a derogation allowing the use and sale of lead shot of sizes between 1.9 mm and 2.6 mm at outdoor shooting ranges that have specific risk management measures in place to contain lead emissions.

The derogation was introduced to preserve athletes' ability to train for Olympic disciplines, and the possibility for Member States to host the Olympic Games, as the socio-economic impact of renouncing to the Olympic games was considered too high. In addition, Olympic disciplines are the most widely practiced disciplines across Europe and the world. They are also governed by strict rules, such as the Olympic Charter² and the World Anti-Doping Code³.

In general, derogations are based on evidence provided by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) of (1) whether, among other things, risks (lead emissions in this case) from the derogated use can be controlled through risk management measures and (2) the socio-economic consequences of not having a derogation. The reasons behind all derogations are stated in ECHA's restriction dossier and in the recitals of the Commission restriction proposal. The limited information concerning lead emissions from practical shooting provided during the call for evidence and the two public consultations run by ECHA while developing the restriction dossier does not provide sufficient evidence to support a derogation for this sport. Moreover, the emissions cannot be controlled through risk management measures. The factual situation for practical shooting is hence fundamentally different from the uses derogated by the restriction proposal.

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/comitology-register/screen/documents/105447/6>.

² https://olympians.org/library/olympic_charter.pdf.

³ <https://www.olympics.com/athlete365/articles/Anti-Doping/world-anti-doping-code>.