

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001746/26**  
**to the Commission**  
**Zala Tomašič (PPE)**  
(29 April 2026)

*Subject:* REACH proposal on lead in civilian ammunition — transition timeline and supply chain risks

Regarding the ongoing discussions on the REACH <sup>(1)</sup> proposal to restrict the use of lead in gunshot, there are concerns over the industrial feasibility of the proposed transition timelines for industry and users, particularly in sectors such as hunting and sport shooting.

Given that production capacities for ammunition are, to a large extent, shared across civilian and military segments, a rapid transition could risk creating supply chain disruptions and shortages. This is particularly sensitive in the current geopolitical context, marked by ongoing conflict at the EU's borders and instability in neighbouring regions, where maintaining resilient industrial capacities is strategically important.

In the light of the above:

1. Has the Commission assessed the indirect impact of the proposed transition timeline on shared production infrastructure and the cross-financing of defence investments by civilian revenues beyond the formal military exemption?
2. How has the Commission assessed the potential impact of such a transition on supply chain resilience and the increased risk of dependence on non-EU suppliers, particularly given the current geopolitical tensions?
3. Has the Commission considered postponing further steps in this proposal or providing a longer transition period until a more stable geopolitical context allows for a balanced and secured transition?

Submitted: 29.4.2026

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

The Commission based its initial restriction proposal on the evidence and recommendations provided by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and its scientific committees, which concluded that the restriction (as proposed by ECHA) is proportionate in term of costs and would not have impact on the EU military and defence capacity.

In light of the current geopolitical context, the Commission went one step further and excluded bullets, the main ammunition used for defence purposes, from the proposed restriction.

Consequently, the market demand of lead bullets will remain stable or increase after the restriction. Considering this, and the fact that use of gunshot for defence is minimal, no impact is expected on shared production infrastructure and the cross-financing of defence investments by civilian revenues.

Concerning supply chain resilience, the transition to non-lead gunshot triggered by the restriction would not significantly worsen the dependence on non-EU suppliers.

While most alternatives to lead (steel, bismuth, tungsten) are imported, most lead currently used in gunshot production also comes from outside the EU.

Discussions with the Member States in the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) <sup>(1)</sup> Committee on the proposed restriction are ongoing, including on the most appropriate duration for transitional periods.

The transitional periods for gunshot for hunting have already been extended to seven years to address the concerns of some Member States.

While discussions with Member States in the REACH Committee continue, there remains openness for further refinements to the proposed restriction, if needed.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC (OJ L 396 30.12.2006, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2006/1907/2022-12-17>).

<sup>(1)</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02006R1907-20221217>.