

Question for written answer E-006620/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

Subject: Ban on cadmium in electric and electrical equipment

Directive 2002/95/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 January 2003 on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment has restricted the use of six substances since 1 July 2016. The toxic properties of cadmium have always been extremely well documented, and that is why it is included within the scope of the directive. Cadmium has been covered by an exemption (No 39 in Annex III), the reintroduction of which was opposed by Parliament by a large majority on 20 May 2015.

On the basis of that vote, the Commission ordered an expert report, the results of which were published on 27 June 2016 and offered no justification for the reintroduction of the cadmium derogation. Screen manufacturers using quantum dot technology have been trying to cut down the quantity of cadmium in their products and even develop a cadmium-free technology, given that the derogation was initially supposed to come to an end in 2010.

Does the Commission plan to take account of the scientific report and the vote in Parliament and put an end to the cadmium derogation granted under exemption No 39?