

Question for written answer P-009805/2014
to the Council
Rule 130
Alberto Cirio (PPE)

Subject: Practical arrangements for implementing the REACH Regulation

1. In the case of substances used solely for industrial purposes and with which consumers do not come into contact (as the substance itself is transformed during the process), how do the authorisations provided for in the REACH Regulation offer greater protection for workers and in terms of public health and the environment than would a restriction measure (Annex XVII of the REACH Regulation) limiting their use to industrial purposes and setting occupational exposure limits?
2. The complex and costly authorisation procedure would involve entire manufacturing chains and many SMLs, even in the numerous cases where workers do not come into contact with the substance. Would a restriction measure not therefore be a more appropriate way, in this case, of regulating risk in a targeted manner?
3. In particular, in cases of authorisation processes for substances such as azodicarbonamide (which is currently being assessed by the Commission with a view to inclusion in Annex XIV) would it still be possible to import into Europe expanded foam articles containing that substance without any regulatory measure being applied (weight of the substance < 0.1 % that of the article)? Is the Council aware whether and how the Commission is weighing up, as part of its assessment, the impact of this on European industry in terms of ensuring its competitiveness and balance on the internal market?